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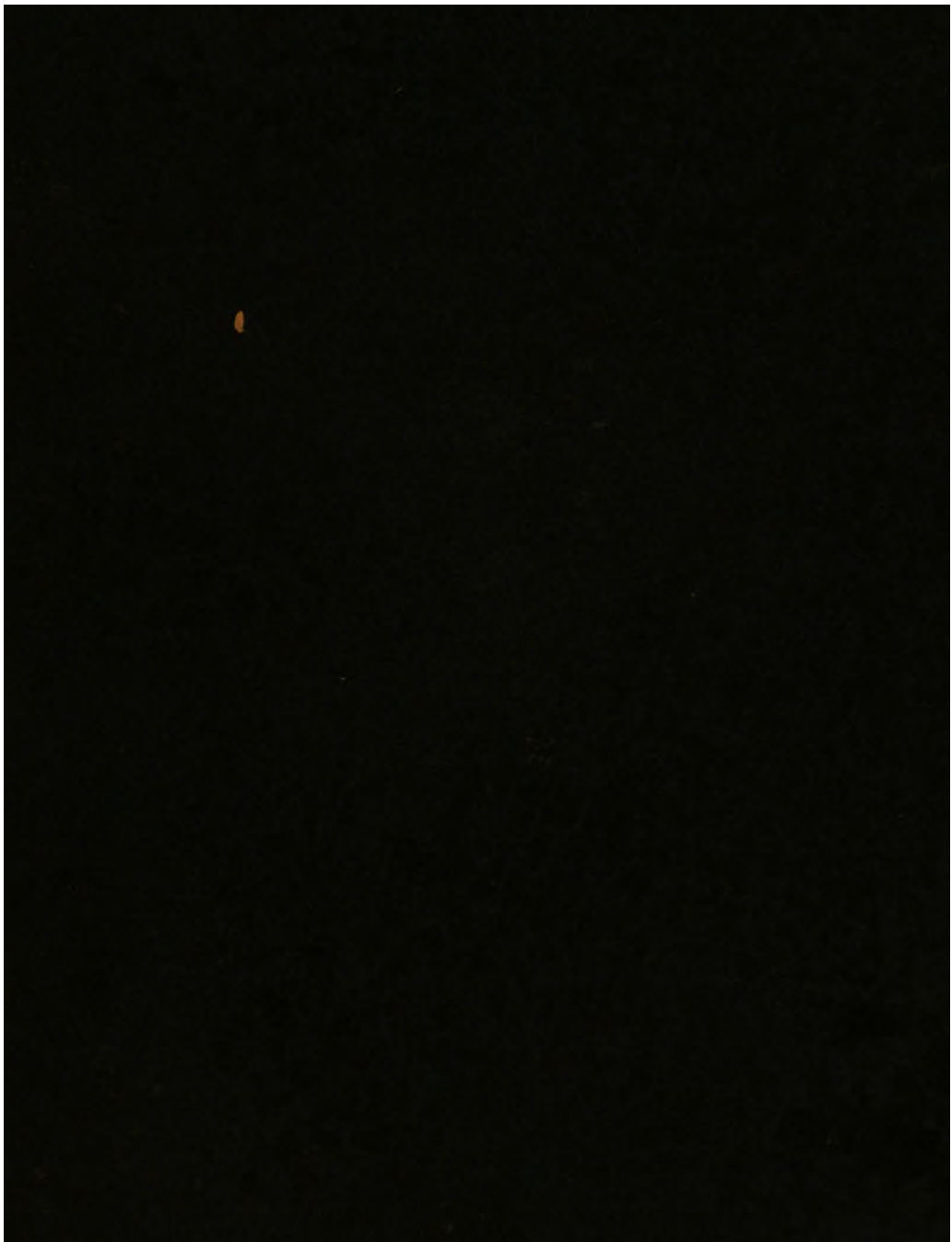
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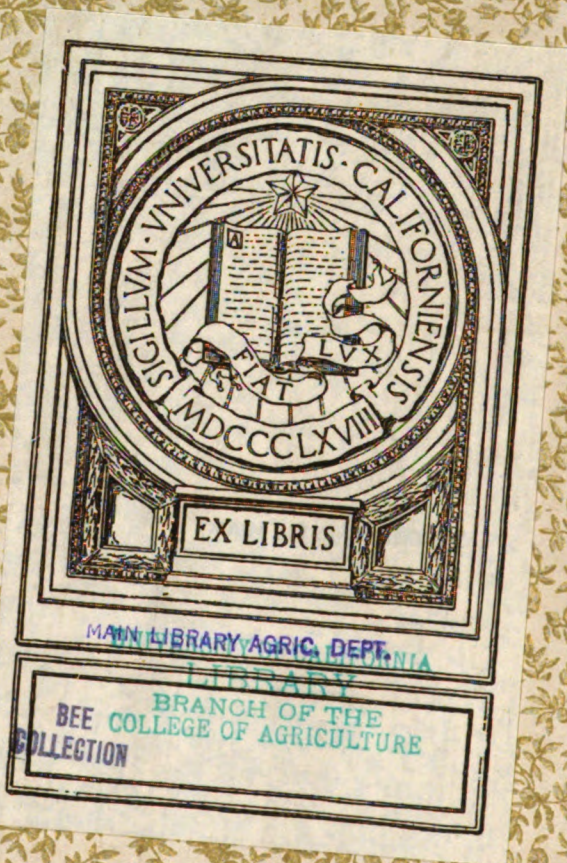
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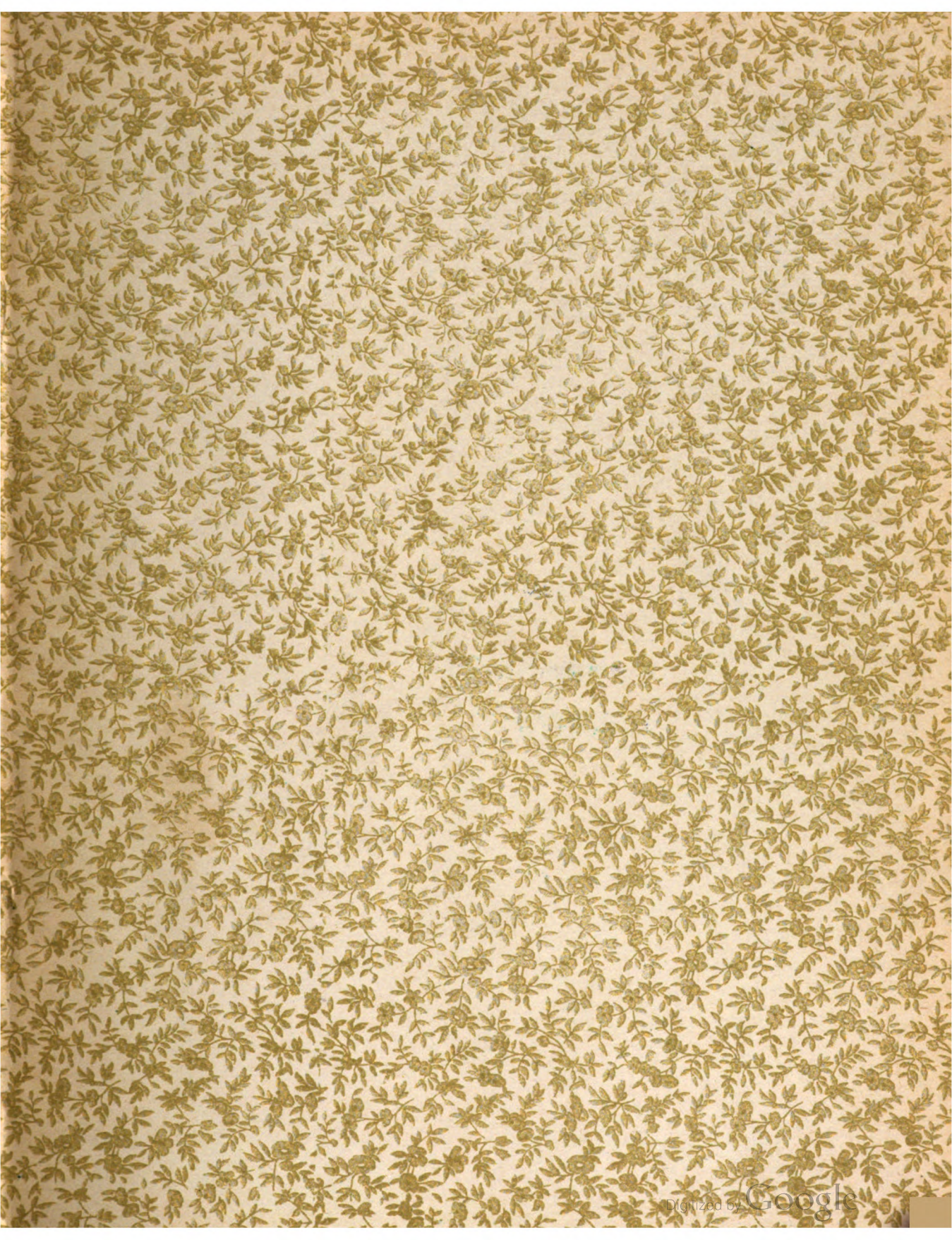
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THE
IRISH BEE JOURNAL
COLUMBO

**Official Organ of the Irish and Affiliated, the Croydon,
Cumberland and Perthshire Beekeepers' Associations.**

EDITED BY REV. J. G. DIGGES, M.A.

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EDITOR
J. G. DICKES
M.A.

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Simple Talks on Bees (Illustrated), by J. G. D.

Ripe Honey, by D. M. Macdonald.

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IRISH BEE JOURNAL

MONTHLY BEEKEEPERS' GAZETTE



Waiting upon Good Fortune.

Beginning a new year, we heartily wish, for all our readers and friends, a happy and prosperous season.

The discouragements of 1907 were not confined to these Islands. From remote countries their effects were reported in words of disappointment similar to those with which we were so familiar here. Even in sunny lands across the sea, trouble, and worries, and losses made up the experiences of wise and mature beemen. Unfavourable weather marred the work; the harvest was small.

But these things are past. Men engaged in this industry keep a brave heart. They do not permit unavoidable reverses to damp enthusiasm. They have confidence in themselves; they wait upon good fortune; they know that

"'Tis not in mortals to command success."

and that to deserve it, one must have patience as well as energy; must work, and plan, taking the rough with the smooth, and leaving nothing undone that can help forward to the achievement in view.

It is most remarkable, this readiness on the part of bee lovers to forget past discouragements. It is as if they had caught from their colonies the inspiration of that hopeful energy which poets sing of and all wise men admire. A new year opens, and every man and woman of us believes that it will be a good year. It matters not that we had the same faith twelve months ago, and have learned by unpleasant experience that it was misplaced. We look to 1908 to retrieve the losses of the year that has passed, and we face it with the hope and confidence that bring their own reward in the moulding of character and the brightening of life.

Notes.

QUEEN INTRODUCTION.—Dr. Miller agrees that there is a distinct advantage in introducing the new queen while the old queen is in the hive.

INSURANCE SCHEME.—Applicants for insurance who have not received their certificates, are advised to refer to "To Correspondents," page 98.

THE MARKETS.—Honey Producers, Dublin.—Sections, Special, 9s.; 1sts, 8s.; 2nds, 7s. per doz. Extracted, 5d. per lb. Cases and Tins lent. Prompt cash.

IRISH BEE JOURNAL.—This JOURNAL is now the Official Organ of the following Associations:—The Irish and its affiliated associations, the Cumberland, the Perthshire, and the Croydon and District Beekeepers' Associations.

SPREADING THE LIGHT.—Lectures on "Bees and their Management," illustrated by lime-light views, were arranged for December at Ballynahinch, Listooder, Drumahers, Raleagh, and Glasdrummond, the lectures being delivered by Mr. Thomas Scott, F.R.H.S., County Instructor, under the auspices of the Co. Down Committee of Agriculture.

MEAD.—Mr. Odum sends us some excellent samples of mead, and details of his expenditure in the manufacture. These include cost of ingredients, bottles at 9d. per doz., corks, labels, tinseel, and time, and work out at £1 6s. 7d. per 5 galls., or 5s. 4d. per gall. It should be possible to sell this delicious beverage at a substantial profit, and thus open up a new market for extracted honey.

FOUL BROOD LEGISLATION.—J. L. Byer, in the *Canadian Bee Journal*, explains that his reference to Ireland (page 1) was due to the fact that it is only of late that he has had the pleasure of reading this paper, and he adds the following kindly comment—"From an artistic standpoint the IRISH BEE JOURNAL is away ahead of anything in the way of bee journals that have come to hand from the other side of the 'herring pond.'"

AUSTRALIAN HONEY.—The South Australian Beekeepers' Association have succeeded in putting their honey on the London market, the suppliers obtaining 2½d. per lb. free of all expenses, with an advance by the Government of 75 per cent. on the estimated value. The S.A.B.A. have done good work for their members, but the President complains that only twenty-seven have paid their annual subscription of 5s.

THE LATE A. D. PRYAL.—We much regret to hear of the death, at Oakland, San Francisco, of Mr. A. D. Pryal. He was a native of Swinford, Co. Mayo, and descended from the family that gave to Ireland one of her most distinguished sons, Michael Davitt. Mr. Pryal emigrated in 1853, and built up an extensive business in the land of his adoption, where he was very highly esteemed. To Mr. W. A. Pryal, of Oakland, one of our valued correspondents, we offer our sincere sympathy.



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By **REV. J. G. DIGGES, M.A.,**

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IRISH BEE JOURNAL

MONTHLY BEEKEEPERS' GAZETTE



To split, or not to split: that is the question.

(With apologies to the great Dane.)

European beekeepers are indebted to their American cousins for many useful hints and inventions. On the other side of the Atlantic it is freely admitted that the industry there has derived certain benefits through research and progress in the old countries. There is never, on either side, any desire to withhold credit for good work, to whatever nation it may be due, nor to minimise the importance of mutual help.

Evidence of this is frequent in the American publications which come East in large numbers, and meet a well-deserved welcome. They are very instructive, very go-ahead—those magazines that show us how earnestly men grapple with and overcome difficulties in that far-off land. They deal with beekeeping in a business-like way, and on a scale much larger than we are accustomed to in these Islands. The reader is impressed by the keenness and vigour displayed in their pages, and is stimulated to improve his own methods and to take himself and his bees more seriously. It would be a right good thing if every practical beekeeper amongst us were a reader of one or more of the American journals. Indeed, it was because we realised this that we arranged our "Clubbing List" to enable our readers to obtain those publications at reduced rates. Not a few have taken advantage of the opportunity—but, for the sake of the Craft, we should like to see the number largely increased.

The American reputation for progressive beekeeping is such that easy-going folk over here are occasionally surprised to read of what we

should think old-fashioned methods as popular in the States. What would be thought of the instructor in this country who should advise us to discard the split section, and to go back to the slow and messy wax-smelter method of fixing foundation; what, especially, if our bee-men counted their stocks by thousands, as Americans do?

In *Gleanings*, for December 15, there appeared some editorial comments which seemed to favour the use of split sections. These were followed by a protest by Dr. C. C. Miller; to which the editor replied that every man had his own ideas on such matters, split sections were not to be recommended, and he had learned that there are many who object to their appearance. Dr. Miller, returning to the attack, says that, if he is rightly informed, the objection to the appearance of split sections is a very serious one in England. The editor of *Gleanings* declares that "the objection raised by Dr. Miller as to the unpopularity of these sections in England is a very serious one. He is firmly convinced that if sold largely in the States, consumers would be likely to jump to the conclusion that the contents of the section were 'manufactured.'"

We do not know to what conclusion American consumers may jump; but it is quite new to us to hear that British consumers object to the split section, and we are bound to say that the assertion is altogether contrary to our experience of marketing comb honey in England. Nevertheless, a statement of the kind, coming from two such eminent men, seemed to us to demand investigation; for, if it were justified by the facts, honey producers who supply the English market would need to revise their method of preparing sections. Accordingly we placed ourselves in communication with a large number of the leading British and Irish producers, all of whom assure us that their experience agrees with our own; they have never heard of any objection to split sections on the part of buyers in England, nor of any depreciation of the value of comb honey marketed in such sections.

Mr. D. M. Macdonald, Banff, a well-known authority, writes:—

Honey in split-top sections does not get penalised by a deduction in price because of the split top. Instead of there being any prejudice on the market against split-tops, I have no hesitation in saying they are the *popular* section. I would judge that well over 80 per cent. on the market are split-top. My statements are confirmed by the experiences of an extensive dealer.

Mr. George Rose, Liverpool, an extensive producer, says:—

Split-top sections, in my experience, sell as freely as plain-top. There certainly is no prejudice in our markets against them.

Mr. E. H. Taylor, Welwyn, a large dealer, declares:—

In all the sections of honey I have sold, I have never heard the point mentioned by any buyer. Your card is news to me.

Mrs. Seadon, S. I. Baldwin's Apiary, Burnley, writes:—

I have never heard previously of the prejudice. I sell ten times as many split sections as plain.

Mr. J. Gray, Expert, Long Eaton, replies:—

I have never heard of the slightest prejudice against split-top sections.

Among the foremost Irish producers, Mr. T. Kirwan, Tuam, says:—

If your query came from anyone else, I should regard it as a joke. I have been about the largest individual producer of section honey in Ireland for over twenty years. I never heard of buyers objecting to split-top sections, or giving a higher price for honey produced in non-split.

Irish Producers, Ltd., Dublin, who market very largely in England, write:—

We have never heard of any objection put forward by either the eating public or grocers, and we never received a penny less on account of the split for the many thousands we sold of this kind.

The Rev. Canon Beresford, Inistioge, replies:—

It is not my experience that split-top sections are unpopular with buyers. I never use any other than split-top, two bee-way, and no buyer has ever made any objection to them.

Mr. John Doyle, Expert and County Instructor, Wexford, tells us:—

I use split-top sections, and never had the slightest complaint from a buyer.

Mr. M. H. Read, Hon. Sec. Irish Beekeepers' Association, says:—

I use both plain and three-split sections, and have not found any difference in selling value when the three-split are well closed up.

Mr. W. Morony, Expert, Boyle, writes:—

I use the three-split, being much easier to fix. For local market I find no difference.

Mr. T. J. Crowe, Expert, Co. Galway, says:—

I am unable to confirm the allegation. I have always used either split-top or three-split, and have never known buyers to show a preference for plain sections.

Having received the above testimony, we breathe more freely. It does not appear that any necessity has arisen for a return to the laborious and tedious methods of twenty-five

years ago. What now we should like to know is, where Dr. Miller and *Gleanings* obtained their information regarding the unpopularity of split sections on the English market.



Notes.

INSURANCE SCHEME.—Applicants for insurance who have not received their certificates, are advised to refer to "To Correspondents," page 121.

THE MARKETS.—Honey Producers. Dublin.—Sections, Special, 9s.; 1sts, 8s.; 2nds, 7s. per doz. Extracted, 5d. per lb. Cases and Tins lent. Prompt cash.

"IMPORTANT NEW PUBLICATION."—Mr. Simmins corrects the price as advertised last month, and writes that he is returning the 2d. overpaid to each purchaser. The price is 1½d. post free. See Advertisement.

PURIFYING VINEGAR.—One of our foreign exchanges gives the following:—"Sulphuric acid is a good purifier in melting wax, or even vinegar if a small quantity is to be melted." We must enter a protest against the addition of sulphuric acid to vinegar by inexperienced persons.

FASTIDIOUS BEES.—A contemporary announces that, "Robber bees object to crawl through wet grass." It is very unreasonable on the part of robber bees, and involves a good deal of labour when one has to dry the grass for them. An iron roof over the apiary might pay for itself in the long run!

TRACKING ROBBERS.—The *Australian Bee Bulletin* supplies the following "Capping":—"Slaked lime dusted on robbers or flour, will show what hives they come from. Then exchange the robbed hive with that of the robbers." There can be no doubt that dusting flour with slaked lime is a new "kink;" but the exchange process may be difficult in the circumstances!

A NATURE MYSTERY.—A correspondent wants to know what is meant by the following:—"As the days and the bees, tempted out, maybe, by occasional brief intervals of warmth and sunshine, begin to show signs of renewed activity, the interest of their owners will be re-awakened." Replies, accompanied by sixpenny Postal Orders, to be sent in on or before doomsday; the money to go to anyone giving the correct answer, or, in default of such, to Mr. Silver for the Isle of Wight Fund.

BEE DISEASE IN THE ISLE OF WIGHT.—An English reader writes to say that he is prepared to contribute £5, on condition that it be administered by a committee pledged not to act. A "Soft One" from north of the Tweed offers 1,000 swarms, on condition that they be distributed by the Czar, the Kaiser, and the Mikado, acting together. These are cautious offers. They read as if they were meant to be funny.

A BEE MYSTERY.—It appears that Messrs. Collard's workmen, at Exeter, after cutting through a block of Bath stone, found two or three dozen live bees in a cavity in the stone. The bees revived, and after a few hours several of them were able to fly. No vein or crevice was apparent on the surface of the stone, which is to be removed to London for examination. We may assume that the bees were "stoney broke" when they took to that residence.

IRISH BEE JOURNAL INSURANCE SCHEME.—Our scheme does not require membership of any Association. The premium is only 1d. per stock, and the minimum premium, 6d. It insures, up to £20, against liability for damage done by the bees of the insured. Full particulars, and the form of application, may be found in our December issue—from this Office, 1½d. post free. A larger number than ever before have already insured with us for 1908. Let all others make a note of this.

Contributed Articles.

Comb Cappings.

By JOHN SILVER, CROYDON.

EVOLUTION OF AN APIARY.—The photo of Mr. Crombleholmes' apiary is an excellent illustration of the gradual growth of an apiary in the hands of an observant beekeeper picking up his ideas bit by bit. There are seen the straw skep, hives with fixed floors and flat and narrow alighting boards, together with the more up-to-date methods of movable floors and sloping and wide alighting boards. There is nothing like beekeeping for developing the latent resources of a man and his household. Building an artistic and roomy shed, with his wife as architect and carpenter in chief! It makes some of us look quite shiftless.

POLLEN-STARVED BROOD.—Mr. J. Huxley's experience is most valuable. More observation and experiments on those lines are urgently needed to enable us to put our fingers, as it were, definitely upon the real causes which go to produce the diseases of bees. In the human family, apart from contagion, we can definitely point to the combination of causes which will produce diphtheria and scarlet fever, which diseases, when once produced, will spread very rapidly. It is time we were able to do likewise in reference to foul brood. At any rate if we cannot get blood out of a flint, there is observation and wisdom to be obtained from Flintshire, and Huxley is a name that has already rendered pioneer service.

SIZE OF FRAMES.—There is a distinct movement in the direction of a larger frame for clover districts, but a smaller frame for heather. Like Dr. Smyth, I preferred a larger frame when I began, and made the frames for five hives myself; the size is $15\frac{1}{4}$ by $9\frac{1}{2}$, outside measure and reversible, so that the frame is completely filled with comb, with one inch space under the frame. Heather men are, however, taking a fancy to standard frames of about $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches depth instead of $8\frac{1}{2}$. I am convinced that a hive taking 9 or 10 frames of $15\frac{1}{2}$ by $9\frac{1}{2}$ would meet with a considerable demand.

Simple Talks on Bees.

SPRING CLEANING.

With the close of March, or early in April, work in the apiary commences in earnest. The bees will be busy. The beekeeper must not idle. One of his first cares must be to provide a clean home for each colony. Cleanliness is as far from sickness as it is near to godliness—for bees and men: an ounce of it in an apiary is better than a pound of naphthaline or a ton of sulphur. Vacant hives that have been already in use should be thoroughly scrubbed with boiling water, soap and soda, within and without; the floorboard, body box (inside), dummy and doors should be painted over with a half and half solution of carbolic acid (Calvert's No. 5) and water; the exposed parts should have a good coat of paint; and the hives should be left open out of doors until all smell of carbolic has gone off.

Select a favourable day when bees are flying freely. Move a stock to one side, and on the vacant stand set a clean hive, perfectly level from front to back if the frames hang parallel with the front, perfectly level from side to side if the frames run from front to back, so that the combs may hang with vertical sides in the hive. Blow some smoke through the entrance of the occupied hive; remove the roof, lift, and quilts; take the sheet by two corners and draw it off, dropping your carbolic cloth upon the frames at the same time, as described in No. VI. (page 20, Vol. V.). Give the bees a couple of minutes to feed. Roll the cloth off a little and remove the dummy; roll the cloth off another inch or two and take out the first frame, and place it, with its bees, in a corresponding position in the clean hive, keeping a good look out for the queen; proceed in this manner until all the frames have been transferred, being careful, however, to scrape the top bars clean and to reject drone combs and any that are too old, or that are broken, or clogged with pollen—the bees from such combs you will shake or brush into the clean hive. To avoid tempting robber bees, keep the frames in both hives covered as much as possible during the operation. When all the frames have been dealt with, if you have not seen the queen, search for her among the bees remaining in the old hive, and transfer her carefully if found. Arrange a hiving board (No. V., page 5) sloping up to the entrance of the clean hive, and brush on to it all the remaining bees. Now bruise the cappings of honey cells, to the extent of a couple of square inches, in one comb; close up the frames and dummy, and cover them with a new sheet, from which you will have cut a

If you have not a copy of the "Irish Bee Guide," read the advertisement, page IV.

circular piece about 2 inches in diameter, to give the bees access to a feeder; put on the quilts and roof; and carry off the vacant hive to be cleaned and painted for future use. In the evening, put on a feeder with, say, a wine-glass of warm, thin syrup made of pure cane sugar and hot water, half and half, and renew the supply in small quantities daily after the bees have ceased flying. Reduce the entrance to one bee space as a precaution against robbing.—J. G. D.

Feeding Bees.

By D. M. MACDONALD, *Bunff.*

Bees are fed for one or the other of two reasons. First, they may be rather short of stores, or even at the point of starvation, and a supply may be an utter necessity to preserve life. It can easily be seen that here, in the extreme, or even modified condition, feeding undoubtedly pays, because the outlay of it may be of a single shilling for sugar at the physiological moment, and may obtain for their possessor a surplus bringing in, perhaps, one or two pounds of profit at the end of the season. I say nothing of the sense of having acted cruelly to living creatures under our care, which, in these circumstances, a neglect of supplying the life-giving nectar would cause any right-thinking mind. To any true beeman, the gratification felt in doing a good deed is its own reward. It matters little how such food is administered. Sometimes a summary process is best. "Throw in the food to an upturned skep. Do it dexterously!" is an old, old advice, conveying a good deal of truth, although in an extreme form. Thrown in thus dexterously, the bees are livened up, and immediately benefit by the warm food, conveying new life to all. More systematic is the process by which bees are fed up for winter, when supplies of stores are found to be light at the end of autumn owing to a short honey crop, or because they have stored a large proportion of the late gathering in the supers. Here, care should be taken that food is well made, according to recipe in the "Guide." A large feeder, allowing the bees to take down from 5lbs. to 10lbs. in the twenty-four hours, is generally best, as it makes quick work, and causes less excitement and upset in the apiary. Should, however, a desire be felt to keep on breeding, it is best to give small quantities at a time. In this case more food is required, as more is consumed daily. It is generally safest to prepare the bees early in the season, but if this has been neglected, it can be done, even at a late period, with due care. In early feeding,

syrup can be given pretty thin, but later give it thick, mildly warm, and use acid, to prevent granulation in the comb. Travelled swarms should be fed, and home ones are much the better of some help if the weather is unpropitious. Weak lots should always be treated as if they were nuclei, and, when nectar is not coming in, feed. A second reason for feeding is encouraging bees to think that a new season's flow has set in, and thereby securing a start in action and systematic breeding, whereby a large and powerful population is obtained coincident with the opening of the actual flow from the fields. To secure this end, regular and controlled supplies of syrup must be given, starting some six weeks before the expected flow, and keeping it up uninterruptedly right through that period. Some prominent apiarists believe in extracting every drop of honey from the combs in early spring, and, after thinning it down, feeding it back slowly to the bees right up to the opening of the fruit bloom flow, or even that from white clover. If this is tried as an experiment, it would be well to work on a limited scale to test its value. Others, again, believe in giving the bees the food so much diluted that it is little more than sweetened water, believing, as they do, that given thus mildly warm, it gives the bees not only food, but also the water which is required in the hive in spring and early summer—and that without drawing the workers out of the hive—thus saving bee life. Feeders are on the market, allowing of non-nitrogenous, as well as nitrogenous food being fed in the hive, and, when early spring stimulation is going on, this is almost a necessity, if full success in brood-rearing is to be attained. To mature the brood, not only honey, or its equivalent, but also pollen, in some form, as well as water, is an urgent necessity—a fact too often forgotten when spring stimulating.

Wonderful Differences in Colonies During the Honey Flow.

By JOSEPH TINSLEY, *Expert and Lecturer.*
Staffordshire.

What beekeeper has not noticed, when comparing his year's results, how one colony, to all appearances equal to the others in numbers, stores, queen, &c., has completely outshone the others by gathering more surplus. Each year, in my own apiary, and in the hundreds of hives that I yearly examine, I find there is always one colony that will gather 25 lbs. more surplus than the average of the other colonies. Take the past year. At one beekeeper's place I personally removed 56 lbs. of beautiful comb

honey, while the other hives, not six yards away, had scarcely sufficient to carry them through the winter. This astonishing comparison, and the conditions under which such a favourable stock exists, gives food for reflection, and will amply repay the beekeeper for his or her trouble. Over 20 years ago a German writer (H. Gravenhorst) wrote a valuable paper on the subject; but, as German and English beekeeping differ somewhat, I append a few notes which particularly appeal to our own system. The results are the more striking if all the colonies had access to the same pasture, and if the work was carried on under seemingly exactly the same domestic conditions as regards combs, hives, strength of colonies, &c. As a practical beekeeper, it has often happened in a poor season that three or four colonies, in the round straw hives with no frames, had more than enough for winter, while the majority, often stronger in bees, had not sufficient to keep them alive. In a good honey flow it was noticeable that some of the small colonies went far ahead of the stronger ones, inasmuch as four-frame nuclei gave from 10 to 20 lbs. of extracted honey, while others of the same strength, and even stronger ones, yielded scarcely as much.

Still more remarkable seemed the fact that small queen-rearing colonies that had in the aggregate not more comb than one full-sized frame, little by little at a time, would finally yield 5 or 6 pounds of honey, while others in apparently the same condition gathered only their daily supply. In the face of all this, the assertion is frequently heard that only strong colonies yield a surplus. When such results come about, with the colonies, combs, hives, and pasturage apparently the same, there must be other factors not so easily discovered. By repeated examination and observation I have learned that there exists a certain condition under which a colony will gather the most honey, whether it be strong or weak. If this condition has not been reached, or if it has been passed, the storing of surplus will be neglected, or at least carried on only moderately. That being the case, the question naturally arises—What is the condition? By an exact examination there will be found five central points, viz.:—

1. The ideal colony must have a faultless queen, hardy, sound of body, and above all things, fertile, and her progeny distinguished by diligence.

2. Nevertheless, such a queen alone does not make an ideal colony. At the right time, that is, when honey is coming in freely, there must

be plenty of empty comb, that no time nor honey be lost in building comb.

3. Our ideal colony must swarm at the right time, or not at all. It should swarm so early that the queens of the after-swarms, if such are allowed, become fertile, and the first or prime swarm has its combs completed, before the opening of the main harvest.

4. The ideal colony must not be over-populous. A hive is over-populous when its working force is too great in comparison with the dimension of the hive and with the number of wax-building bees. A colony in such a condition will never perform the wonders in gathering honey that we expect from a less populous one. Such a stock feels instinctively that its abode will soon be too small, and the swarming fever sets in, and we know that when this is awakened the bees will remain idle, clustering at the entrance. At the most, only as much honey will be gathered as is needed for the swarming preparations. A colony with the swarming fever is of little value as a honey gatherer.

5. The best honey-gathering colonies are not kept at home during the honey flow by the nursing of too much brood. If there is too much brood in proportion to the working force, most of the honey gathered will be consumed by the brood. The beekeeper whose bees rear a large amount of brood during the main honey harvest, or near its close, will find, on inspection of his colonies at the close of the harvest, that, although they are strong in bees and the combs faultless, the latter will be empty and will remain so.

A queen may be faultless in the fall, and may fail in the spring. To discover this early in the spring and give another, is all important. The introduction can be carried out under the system that the beekeeper is most familiar with. The German writer prefers the cage method, but each beekeeper has a style of his own, so we can leave this out of the question. The next point is that of supplying colonies with abundance of empty combs. It is well known that the bees have to consume honey to produce wax wherewith to build combs. By a chemical process in the bee's body it is elaborated, and exudes in small flakes, which the insects, by means of their mandibles or jaws, masticate, and with it they construct the cells. It takes from 10 to 20 lbs. of honey to produce 1 lb. of wax; so, by giving empty combs, we not only save the honey, but we also save the labour of the bees, inasmuch as they are able to continue their storing without any more work. Then, again, the honey gathering population is considerably more than if a number had to stay in the hive and perform the work.

Our Readers at Home.

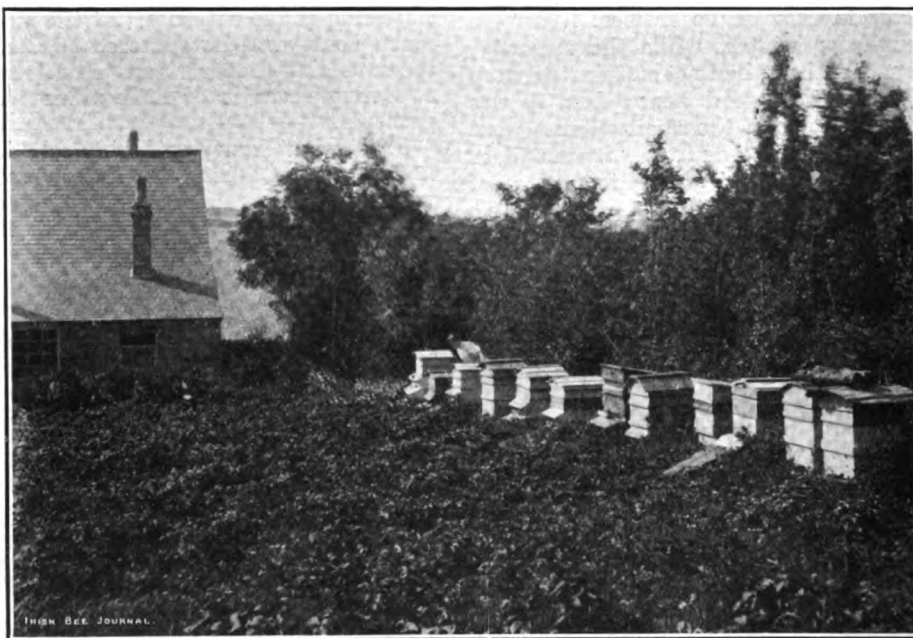
XLV.

MR. CHARLES MANNERS, Chatham, Kent.

We have no reason to regret having encouraged the writer of the following letter to persevere with his beekeeping venture. The

garden county, a "liberal master" may expect good results. He writes:—

"In 1906 I happened to contract bee fever from a neighbour, who owned half a dozen hives; and after going through one year's probation with five stocks, taking such an interest in the study of bee life, and encouraged by your own assurance that a hive should show me a profit of 20/- per annum, I increased my *Battery* last year, by the purchase of seven more hives. Although last season's working left a large margin between £1 and the amount which I actually netted, my experience during 1907 has far from discouraged me, for I sold no less than 6½ lbs. of wax—cappings and old combs. I was only fortunate enough to increase my stocks by three good strong swarms—in skeps up to the present time, sheltered in a bee house, and awaiting



MR. CHAS. MANNERS' APIARY, Chatham, Kent.

picture of his apiary, and the cheerful manner in which he brushes aside the disappointments of 1907, show that we have in Mr. Manners a recruit who will fight his way against difficulties, and keep the colours flying to the end. It is gratifying to us to know that our correspondent has found the "Irish Bee Guide" a useful instructor. We are sure that all our readers will wish for him the success he deserves, and will be glad to hear what progress he may make in the coming season. Situated, as he is, in a

self-transfer into modern residences, to further increase my pretty little terrace."

"As my sole tutor, I am indebted to the 'Irish Bee Guide,' although I possess quite a collection of good works on bees, and as an assistant to an inquisitive cousin, who is to be seen in the picture witnessing the autumn 'slaughter of the innocents.' I had the misfortune to lose my favourite Bull Terrier last autumn, stung to death by bees—but a consultation with an adept elicited the suggestion of this being the work of a hunger swarm, and not of my own bees, that seem to have a very liberal master, who expects them (quite naturally, too) to come safely through the winter, and to give a better account of themselves during 1908."

The Bacteriology of Bee Diseases.

(Continued from page, 107.)

To illustrate this, let us take for example *Bacillus coli communis*, found normally in the intestine of man and many animals, including the intestine of the adult bee, *Bacillus alvei*, found in European foul brood, and *Bacillus larvæ*, found in American foul brood. *Bacillus coli communis* by its growth in bouillon causes the latter to become heavily clouded; *Bacillus alvei* makes it feebly clouded; while *Bacillus larvæ* does not grow at all in this soil and the bouillon remains clear. In gelatin *Bacillus coli communis* grows very well and does not liquefy the medium by its growth; *Bacillus alvei* grows very slowly and only feebly and liquefies the gelatin; *Bacillus larvæ* does not grow at all in this medium. When *Bacillus coli communis* is planted on potato it produces a brownish growth; *Bacillus alvei* on this medium produces a lemon-yellow growth, and *Bacillus larvæ* fails to show any growth. When *Bacillus coli communis* is planted in milk there follows a rapid souring of the milk and a firm coagulation of the casein; *Bacillus alvei* produces a soft coagulum which is followed by a slow digestion or liquefaction of the casein; *Bacillus larvæ* does not grow in milk. In litmus milk, *Bacillus coli communis* produces a large amount of acid, which is indicated by the change of the litmus to the red colour; *Bacillus alvei* produces no marked change in reaction, and *Bacillus larvæ* does not grow in this medium. In the bouillons to which the sugars, glucose, lactose, saccharose, etc., have been added, there is produced by the growth of *Bacillus coli communis*, gas, and a large amount of acid; *Bacillus alvei* does not produce gas and only a small amount of acid by its growth in the media containing sugars, while *Bacillus larvæ* does not grow when planted in these "soils." (I shall speak later of a medium upon which *Bacillus larvæ* will grow).

It is by these differences which we observe in the growth upon the various media and the effect produced upon the different media by the growth of the bacteria that we are able to determine one species of bacteria from another.

THE RESULTS OF THE ACTIVITY OF BACTERIA.

In the consideration of this question it is convenient to divide the bacterial flora into two groups—nonpathogenic, or those which do not produce disease, and pathogenic, or those which do produce disease. Some of the nonpathogenic bacteria are economically very important as scavengers. The bodies of dead animals and plants are largely brought to decay by them. The flavours of butter, cheese, and wines are thought to be improved by the growth of bacteria or other micro-organisms—the fungi and the yeasts. Others of these micro-organisms ruin the food, causing the souring of milk, the spoiling of fruit, etc. Many diseases in man and animals are known to be caused by bacteria, as tuberculosis, diphtheria, glanders, and anthrax.

I wish now to speak briefly of how bacteriology has been used in the study of bee diseases, and to summarise the results which have been obtained. For a more detailed account you are referred to a bulletin issued by the Bureau of Entomology of the United States Department of Agriculture—Technical Series. No. 14, "The Bacteria of the Apiary, with Special Reference to Bee Diseases," issued November 6, 1906.

From what has been said one would naturally infer that in every apiary, whether diseased or not, there are on the hives, combs, and bees a large number of bacteria that are perfectly harmless. If one is trying to find in a diseased apiary the species of bacteria which is the probable cause of the trouble, what is the method of procedure? Suppose there were two herds of cattle on adjoining farms, and the cattle on one farm were dying while those on the other remained well. If it were suspected that some plant which the cattle were eating was the cause of death, naturally the plant would be selected which was found on the farm where the animals were

sick and which was not found on the farm where the animals remained well. This is exactly the kind of reasoning used when we are looking for the bacteria which are causing the diseases among bees. This necessitates, as you see, the study of all the bacteria which are present in any apiary, whether diseased or not, as well as those in diseased apiaries.

At the time we began the work on bee diseases, in June, 1902, the disorders which were causing the greatest trouble were known to beekeepers as black brood, foul brood, pickle brood, and paralysis. After the study of a large number of samples of brood affected by disease which was being called black brood and the finding of *Bacillus alvei* in all of them, it is very clear that this disease is the same as that investigated by Cheyne in 1885, and called by him "foul brood;" he first described *Bacillus alvei*. "Black brood" was a name given by Dr. William R. Howard, of Fort Worth, Tex., to a disease which he thought existed in New York State, and he described as its cause *Bacillus milii*. After a careful search in New York State for a disease containing *Bacillus milii* we were unable to find it, and there seems to be no ground for the description of a new disease. What has been called black brood by Doctor Howard is obviously the type of foul brood which we now distinguish as European foul brood.

In the decaying larvæ and dried scales found in the cells in the disease which was receiving the name of foul brood there were seen by the use of the microscope a very large number of the spores of bacteria, and in the larvæ in the early stage of the disease there were observed bacteria in the rod form. When these spores were planted upon the media or soils which have been explained earlier in this paper, they would not grow. It became necessary, then, to devise a soil in which the growth could be obtained. After a number of unsuccessful attempts, a medium or soil was made from healthy bee larvæ in which the spores would germinate and the bacteria would grow. By a study of this species, which was found in the dead larvæ of this disease and which was not found in the healthy apiary, it was evident that it was not *Bacillus alvei*, and, since *Bacillus alvei* is not present at all, we know that this disease is not the foul brood which Cheyne had reported in his work in 1885. Since it is not this type of foul brood, what could it be? By carefully reviewing all the work which had been done by others, the conclusion was inevitable that this diseased condition had not been described properly from a bacterial standpoint as a disease separate and distinct from the foul brood of Cheyne, but that the mistake had been made for a long time of calling two different and distinct diseases which effected the brood of bees by one name. This condition was reported to the New York State Department of Agriculture in a report to that department made in January, 1903, and another in January, 1904. In the latter report this condition, for want of definite information, was referred to as "X brood" and the bacillus as *Bacillus X*. At the suggestion of Dr. E. F. Phillips, of the Bureau of Entomology, United States Department of Agriculture, it was thought best for very good reasons to retain the name foul brood in the name of each disease and add a qualifying word to designate the difference between the two diseases. "European" is added to foul brood to designate the disease which Cheyne studied in England (Europe) in 1885, and "American" is added to the foul brood which was first studied in the United States (America). We distinguish, then, European foul brood and American foul brood. Both of these diseases of the brood of bees seem to be found in Europe as well as America. It must therefore be remembered that these names do not put any stigma on either country, Europe or America, but, on the contrary, Europe is thereby given the credit of having first studied the European foul brood and America for having first studied American foul brood.

(To be Continued.)

Association Reports.

IRISH BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

COMMITTEE MEETING, Feb. 7th, at Lincoln Place, 4 p.m. Attended—Rev. J. G. Digges (Chairman), Messrs. H. Tisdall, R. A. Anderson, and M. H. Read, *Hon. Sec.* Minutes read and adopted. Accounts passed for payment. Mr. T. J. Crowe's Expert Certificate endorsed for 1908. *Hon. Secretary* reported arrangements for conversazione. Statement of accounts for Provincial Show Demonstrations submitted and approved. Accounts for 1907 submitted. The Committee considered the report of experts regarding hive construction, and adopted it, as published last month, page 100. For the slip attached to the upper inside front of the body box of the "C.D.B." hive, and other hives constructed for frames parallel with entrance, the measurements adopted are— $\frac{3}{4}$ -in. deep, $\frac{7}{8}$ -in. thick at bottom, bevelled to $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. thick at top, with a $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. space between each end of the slip and the opposite edge of frame shoulder. The use of the slip is to prevent waste of the outer side of the front comb. It was found that the slips hitherto supplied were too deep, and bore upon the comb instead of upon the top bar. The $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. spaces at ends are intended to lessen the risk of breaking the shoulders when the frame is carelessly handled. M. H. READ, *Hon. Sec.*, Coolgreagh, Terenure, Dublin.

STAFFORDSHIRE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Staffordshire Beekeepers' Association has been held in the Lecture Hall at the County Education Buildings, Stafford. The President, Mr. A. H. Heath, presided. The Annual Report, read by the Rev. L. C. Bruton, *Hon. Sec.*, gave a cheerful account of the Association's work. There were 183 members at the beginning of 1907, and 194 at the close of the year. The balance to credit was increased from £11 2s. 1d. to £15 8d. 6d. The energy of the Association's expert, Mr. J. W. Tinsley, was commented upon in the Report with much gratification. "Great credit is due to Mr. Tinsley for his trouble, and for his faith in the members of the Association, resulting in an excellent show last October." The expert delivered 9 lectures in 1907, visited 131 apiaries, inspected 725 colonies, and cycled 2,460 miles. The Report submitted by Mr. Tinsley was most encouraging. After the elections, and routine business, the Chairman was thanked for presiding, after which Mr. Tinsley gave a lantern lecture on Beekeeping.

STRABANE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

The annual general meeting of the above Association was held in the Abercorn Schools, Strabane, on February 10th. Rev. A. H. Delap, M.A., in the chair. There was a very large attendance of members, many of whom came a long distance, which indicated that the Association is making excellent progress. The report for the past year's work was very gratifying, considering that the season was very much against the interests of beekeepers. An extractor and the necessary appliances for the production of extracted honey has now been provided by the Association, which will be lent to members on terms to be agreed on. It is also proposed to have a special honey label designed for the use of members, so that with these advantages at their disposal they will be in a position to put up their honey in the most acceptable form. The financial statement was also very satisfactory. After paying the working expenses of the year there was a substantial balance to the credit of the Association. Mr. S. J. Magill, itinerant Instructor in Horticulture and Beekeeping for County Tyrone, was present, and gave an address to the members on the proper management and working of bees. The following officers for season 1908 were then elected:—President, Rev. A. H. Delap,

M.A.; Vice-President, Mr. S. J. Magill; *Hon. Secretary* and Treasurer, Mr. R. S. Magee; Committee, Rev. M. Neill, Messrs Thomas B. Feely, H. Maguire, D. Leitch, James Browne, and W. J. McCormick. R. S. MAGEE, *Hon. Secretary*.

CROYDON AND DISTRICT BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION.

A lecture on "Popular Beekeeping," illustrated by lantern and new slides, is announced to be delivered by Mr. George Rose on March 12th.

At the recent annual meeting, the report of the expert, Mr. E. R. Seadon, included the following:—

The spring tour was unfortunately upset a great deal by the inclement weather, and time after time I had to give up visiting on this account. I have attended Croydon twice with my bee tent, first at the Croydon Flower Show, and here weather was against any demonstrations, raining all day. Second occasion at Coombe Road, on the occasion of the Adult School Sports, and this time the weather allowed for demonstrations to be given, which were well attended, as far as the Sports would allow. The autumn tour was marked with real summer weather, and until the last day, and two members to call upon, the weather continued fine throughout. Stocks generally are going into winter quarters well provided with stores, but the coverings on bees (quilts) need a great deal of renewing. A vast number of the members put anything on that comes first to hand, and this practice, and the way they are folded, spells mischief occurring inside. All coverings should be cut exact size to fit over the body, and not folded first one way and then another; in some cases linoleum was used next to the bees, and in others the American cloth (glazed); this practice is only intended for early summer, and should not be used for wintering. Combs are, I fear, not changed sufficiently. Every season at least two or three new sheets of foundation should be given to the bees, not only for the health of the colony, but also to allow the bees to mature to full size in the cells, the continual hatching of the bees and consequent casting of the cocoons on the sides of the cells gradually diminishes the size. Foul brood I am pleased to report very scarce, four cases noted; and I trust, if my recommendations are carried out, that the report next season of the expert may give a clean bill of health. I have, in all cases where noticed, given them a slight spraying. Number of stocks examined in spring:—In bar frame hives, 41; in skeps, 3. Number of stocks examined in autumn:—In bar frame hives, 102; in skeps, 3.

To the members generally I tender my best thanks for their kindness extended to me throughout my visits, and close by wishing them and the Society next season a real good harvest. E. R. SEADON

Meteorological Report.

(Prepared for the IRISH BEE JOURNAL.)

BY SURGN. GENERAL S. B. ROE, C.B.

AT BALLYCONNELL, JANUARY, 1908.			
Average Maximum Temperature	...	43.88°.	
Average Minimum	...	32.38°.	
Highest	...	51° on 15th & 27th.	
Lowest	...	15° on 5th.	
Total Rainfall	...	3.99 inches.	
Greatest	...	70 " on 6th.	
Number of Rainy Days	...	19.	

Honey Imports.

The value of Honey imported into the United Kingdom in the month of January, 1908, was £656. From a Return supplied to the IRISH BEE JOURNAL by the Statistical Office, H.M. Customs, London.

SONG.

(Written for the IRISH BEE JOURNAL.)

Come to me, Beloved! Beloved!—The stars are on high,
And the wild wind is calling, is calling, low under the sky.

My eyes are the stars, O Beloved, that seek till they find;
And the voice of my Heart as it calls thee, the voice of the wind.

Come to me, Beloved! Beloved!—The glow in the West

Sank down till it slipped from the daylight to burn in my breast.

As behind the far ridge of the East night was waiting to be,
I have waited, and still I am waiting, Beloved, for thee.

Come to me, Beloved! Beloved!—The Moon is my Heart
Earth-shadowed, who loses her radiance from sunlight apart:

And the wide hungry purple of Space, like an infinite sea,

Is my Life, O Beloved! Beloved!—My Life without thee.
H. M. W.

Trade Catalogues.

E. H. TAYLOR, *Welwyn, Herts.*—Mr. Taylor's is the first of the 1908 Supply Catalogues to hand. It is a very complete list of beekeepers' and poultry rearers' requisites, contains valuable hints on management, and is illustrated throughout. Mr. Taylor's special offer for early orders is well worth examination. See advertisement, page V.

S. SIMMINS, "*Queen-Land*," *Heathfield, Sussex.*—Mr. Simmins sends out a 16 quarto-page pamphlet giving the pedigree of his celebrated queens, and quoting prices. He says—"Our queens require no painting on paper; but they will ensure a golden and silver lining to your pockets." Presently we shall find ourselves ordering queens, own daughters of "Honeydew," out of "Gold-leaf" by "Diamond"; and we have no doubt that they will prove to be good honey finders. We recommend our readers to write for this pamphlet. See advertisement, page V.

Notices.

The Editor will be glad to receive letters and photographs for "Our Readers at Home" columns, Reports of Meetings of Societies, etc.

The date printed on wrappers is that of the month of the last issue to which the current subscription extends.

The posting of the JOURNAL in a *GREEN WRAPPER* signifies that the subscription has expired, and that, pending a remittance, the supply has been stopped.

Any friends who are willing to introduce the IRISH BEE JOURNAL to their districts can have parcels of back numbers forwarded free to their addresses, on application to this Office.

Vols. III., IV., V. and VI., cloth, gilt, 2s. 6d. each; postage 4d. each. Vol. II., 5s.; postage 4d.

PICTURE POST CARDS.—Our own series, assorted, 12, 1s.; 25, 1s. 6d.; 50, 2s. 6d.; 100, 4s. 2d.; 200, 7s. 6d.; 500, 12s. 6d.; 1,000, 17s., post free. "Our Readers at Home" Apiaries, Portraits, etc., 50, 3s. 9d.; 100, 4s. 2d.; 200, 7s. 6d.; 500, 12s. 6d.; 1,000, 17s., post free.

Lantern slides for hire or sale.

INSURANCE SCHEME, 1908, to indemnify, up to £30, against liability to third parties for damage to persons or property. Annual premium, 1d. per stock; minimum, 6d. For details see December issue, 1½d. post free.

Expert Advice.

Queries must reach the Editor, Lough Rynn, R.S.O., Co. Leitrim, NOT LATER THAN THE 18TH OF THE MONTH. Urgent queries requiring replies per post must be accompanied by a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. Replies will be telegraphed WHEN FULL ADDRESS IS GIVEN, AND 6D. ENCLOSED FOR COST OF TELEGRAM. Address for Telegrams—"DIGGES, MORILL." Writing should be ON ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

SUSPECTED FOUL BROOD.

(377.) I have this day sent you by per post a sample of comb from a lot of my bees just recently died. They had plenty of sealed honey. I have lost 7 lots out of 8, but the other lot seems very strong. I should feel extremely obliged if you could tell me if there is any sign of foul brood. I have had bees for years, but I do not know what foul brood is. Four years ago I bought 10 hives off a gentleman. They had been awfully neglected, and some had bees in them and some had not, and since that time my bees have been a failure, and I know not why. I have spent a lot of money on bees, and the more I try, the further I seem to get behind. I cannot see in the JOURNAL that you make any charge for advice, but if so, if you let me know, I will send P.O.—H. B., *Sussex, England*.

REPLY.—We regret to say that there is long-established foul brood in the comb received from you. Had you examined the comb side by side with the description in the "Irish Bee Guide," page 189, you could have had no doubt as to the cause of the death of your bees. Yours is one of the numberless cases of disaster consequent upon purchasing bees and hives without having had them examined by a capable judge. You will have to destroy all affected stocks, with the contents of their hives, &c., and disinfect the hives as directed in the Guide referred to above. We make no charge for advice.

HONEY SAMPLE.

(378.) I venture to send you a section of honey, hoping you will be good enough to tell me the cause of the extraordinary flavour it has, which several customers have complained about. I cannot account for it in any way, as all except the heather honey is more or less affected. There was no honey stored here before July 9th, and for ten days or so previously I had fed with syrup in small quantities, but, of course, removed supers, so that I cannot think the flavour is owing to syrup mixed with the honey. I should like to know if it is due to any plant, as, if so, it would be no use trying, except for heather honey, this season. I had seven crates full from two stocks, with between 120 to 130 sections well filled, which I think was fairly good for last season. I should like to know, through the IRISH BEE JOURNAL, if any others of your readers have experienced the same.—M. P., *Queen's Co.*

REPLY.—There is a flavour of ragweed in the sample, but it is very slight and almost imperceptible. We do not think that this sample is open to any serious objection, and should advise you to proceed this season as before. You have not had reason to complain of the quantity of honey harvested last year.

MOVING BEES. SWARMING.

(379.) (a) I have at present four hives, one of which only had anything like enough stores of honey to put them

over the winter. I am shortly moving to a place of my own in the country. I can either leave my hives here or move them any time I like. Where I am going there are plenty of fruit trees about a quarter of a mile away from where I shall place hives, and any amount of hawthorn. When should I move them? (b) I found that the bees in three of my hives were flying about in front of the hives for a couple of hours this morning. On examining No. 1 hive I found they had emptied the back frame, and nearly finished the candy; but No. 2 and 3 frames from the front were more than half full of honey. I moved these two full frames to the back, all but one frame. I have only 6 in. Was this wrong? My idea was that the bees were evidently clustering on the last two or three frames. (c) Is it a good plan to try and set your stock, or at least one stock, to swarm after the honey flow is over and supers removed, with a view of rearing your queens? It seems a good plan if it works, for you get your surplus honey and increase of stocks as well.—R. M., *Co. Down, Feb. 2nd.*

REPLY.—(a) Move them at once. Have regard to the instructions on "Moving Stocks" in the "Irish Bee Guide," pars. 156 to 158. (b) It would have been better to let well alone, save that a cake of candy might have been slipped under the quilts. Again and again we have given warning against disturbing the cluster so early (Feb. 2nd). (c) This will depend upon your locality. If your honey flow terminates early enough, your plan will work, if you keep the bees in good heart by regular feeding.

REFUSED CANDY. SWARMING. SUPERING.

(380.) I gave my 3 stocks candy early in November; this was soon finished, and early in December I gave them more; this second lot contained Naphthol Beta solution put up by a local chemist. I now find these have not been touched. I may say the candy was quite unpalatable; it tasted strongly of methylated spirit, though I used the quantity directed by the chemist (1 large dessertspoonful to 6 lbs. sugar). (a) Do you think the taste prevents the bees from feeding on it? or is it likely they have been too torpid to need as much food? (b) If a certain stock swarms in spite of all efforts to prevent it, is it advisable to return the swarm, picking out the queen, if possible? A friend of mine is in the habit of returning swarms just in the same manner as one would hive them, and takes no further trouble. (c) Is it worth while sowing about $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of spare ground in the garden with white clover? I have three stocks of bees, and hope to increase gradually to six. (d) When first putting on supers, is it advisable to put two crates of sections on together? (e) If one adopts the practice of tiering crates, how does one find out how the lowest one is progressing—i.e., when the time has arrived to put on a fresh one?—Miss D. L., *Bucks.*

REPLY.—(a) Very probably. You ought to have sent us a piece of the candy to examine. (b) This will depend upon your object. Many experienced beekeepers remove the queen, preferring the larger swarm that will come out with the new queen. Others hive the swarm on the old stand, setting it to work at once in the supers, and uniting the swarm and parent stock at the close of the honey flow. Swarming may be prevented only to a certain extent. Refer to the "Irish Bee Guide," pp. 118-129, for full instructions. If your friend succeeds in any respect, beyond the saving of "trouble," he ought to publish his experiences to the world. (c) No. The $\frac{1}{2}$ acre may be turned to better account. If beekeepers would use, and induce their neighbours to use, Basic Slag on grass lands in late autumn, they would be agreeably surprised by the increased growth of white clover resulting. (d) No. (e) By examination. A glance at the back row of sections will suffice.

Our Letter Bag.

Letters for publication must reach the Editor, *I. B. Journal*, Lough Linn, R.S.O., Co. Leitrim, not later than the 15th of the month, must be written on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers—not necessarily for publication. The writers are alone responsible for the opinions expressed in their communications. We do not undertake to return rejected correspondence.

APPRECIATIONS.

SIR,—Your IRISH BEE JOURNAL finds a warm welcome here; always holding a fresh lesson about our little friends.—Mrs. GRAHAM, *Co. Dublin.*

DEAR SIR,—I am enclosing P.O. value 1s. 6d. Kindly send me your breezy JOURNAL. I had it last year, and found it very helpful.—Miss J. G., *Lancashire.*

DEAR SIR,—You will be pleased to learn that your "Irish Bee Guide" is quite appreciated, and always in demand in preference to others.—COUNTY ASSOCIATION SECRETARY, *England.*

DEAR SIR,—I think that your IRISH BEE JOURNAL is the BEST, and that every beekeeper ought to take it up; and also the "Irish Bee Guide," which is PERFECTION. I recommend them to all my friends wherever I travel.—S. T., *Cornwall, Jan. 22nd.*

DEAR SIR,—Thanks for IRISH BEE JOURNAL, which, to my mind, is a crisp, bright JOURNAL, and is all you claim for it. I was sorry to see the attack made upon it in another journal recently, which you no doubt have seen, and I wish you a successful year for 1908.—WELL-WISHER, *Hertfordshire.*

[Many thanks. We really attach no importance to those attacks.—ED.]

BEGINNING BEEKEEPING.

DEAR SIR,—I would like to keep bees, but unfortunately I don't know the first thing on the subject. I have just acquired a little patch in town, out of which I intend making a garden, but at present there are no flowers. Could you give me a few hints how to start?—S. R., *Co. Galway.*

REPLY.—Manifestly the first thing for you to do is to procure a reliable guide book, and to study it, and also to subscribe to one or more Bee Papers. You cannot hope to succeed as a beekeeper without the requisite knowledge. It is quite impossible here to give you the necessary instructions. You may find all that you need in the "Irish Bee Guide."

THE SEASON—1907.

DEAR SIR,—The season of 1907 will be remembered by most beemen as a most remarkable season in many respects. It was remarkable for its long continued adverse weather and has proved the exception to all rules in my experience. I have had it settled as an article of faith, so to speak, that stocks closed down in autumn with plenty of stores can be relied on almost every time to be ready for the honey flow; but of all, when these stores are sufficient to last till the next year's honey comes in, and I don't know that my faith is very much shaken yet. But stocks that were fed during June and early July did best. I find, on reference to my diary, that my best stocks were supered on May 27th. The good weather then only lasted four days, but supers were taken to at once, and during the interval from 30th May till 14th July, I acted quite unorthodox in feeding my bees on top of supers. By the middle of June,

drone brood was being thrown out. I started then and slowly, but regularly, supplied syrup, thinking every day weather would change. Had I not done this few stocks, if any, would have been left alive to do duty. But for this trouble and trifling expense I have been abundantly repaid in surplus honey, while neighbours are surprised that my experience is not like theirs, and ask: "How many of yours died?" It will take a good year to follow this one if the empty homes of our honey bees are again to be retentive in the countryside. Such a season we hope to see in 1908.—"MAKESHIFT," *Scotland*.

HEATHER IN YORKSHIRE.

SIR.—The heather season opened rather in dull weather, and it began a fortnight later than usual—about the 25th of August, when I put down eight hives on a farmer's premises, and went home fully assured that a good harvest would be gathered while I took my ease after the summer toil. On September 10th I got a friend to cycle over and inspect the hives, but on returning he reported that the bees were scarcely up in the supers. A fortnight later I found that, on the 3rd of September, a sharp frost had ruined the heather: the farmer's plums were dropping one by one and his dahlias were dead. After an inspection, and finding that nothing had been put into the upper chambers, I packed up and brought the hives home, greatly disappointed; but, on weighing the hives at the railway station, I found that I was eleven stones to the good, so that if (as I afterwards found) the supers had not more than about 20 lbs. of heather honey, the remainder all went to make solid store for winter use. One mistake I made which I shall try never to repeat—sacrificing my own judgment in accepting the advice of others. I felt convinced that whatever the number of supers you place upon your hive for travelling purposes, to allow sufficient ventilation, one must not leave more than one super during working time. Heat must be maintained, but I allowed two to remain on all the time. I would have been the richer by another 10 stones of honey at the lowest computation. I followed our local pedagogue's advice—sometime a beekeeper, out of date and old fashioned—others, however, have done no better than I on the heather last season.—P. A., *Yorkshire*.

NEW BEE DISEASES.—LEGISLATION WANTED.

SIR.—Mr. Gray is, I think (p. 98) a long way off the mark. In the first place did our "forbearers" import any foreign queens or bees? If they did, they were very few and far between, and what little change of colour they gave would soon be bred out. Certainly, our native bees are called black; but they never were black, but always brown, as far back as I can remember, and that is well over forty years. The brown is an acknowledged fact, I believe. I asked the question above twenty years ago in the *B.B.J.*—Why are they called black? The "little black devils" he writes about must have been some of the Tunisian strain which a certain Sheffield gentleman tried to boom some twenty years ago! A few swarms did, I believe, leave him (for the woods, most probably). I have been through Sherwood Forest from Nottingham to Sheffield, and never saw a black bee; all were brown, and as good-tempered as bees can be. The swarms I used to watch as a boy were always a brown cluster. I remember these poor, despised natives in a good season often used to throw off a swarm, a cast, a colt, and another (name forgotten); and the swarm would sometimes throw a virgin swarm. Five swarms from one stock, and there would be some heavy skeps amongst them at end of season. What foreigners could do better? I have no axe to grind, for I am not selling bees, but I do not like one of the best strains under the sun to be called "little black devils." I would like to ask Mr. Gray in what way the introduction of foreigners has improved our bees? Did he ever

know of between thirty and forty stocks of them (in one apiary) gather a hundredweight each in one season? No heather. I have known natives do this.—ROBIN HOOD, *Lancashire*.

POLLEN-STARVED BROOD.

DEAR SIR,—I was interested in your correspondent's report *re* Pollen-Starved Brood (page 107). I do not remember ever seeing the statement—1. "Bees will not try to rear brood unless pollen is abundant." Abundant pollen often means vigorous brood raising, and I have recommended pollen feeding to ensure brood raising. This must be done with care, seeing that the faeces are voided while on the wing. I have seen too much of both starved and chilled brood remain in the cells to endorse No. 2, and was surprised to see the statement. Bees will clear out chilled and starved brood, but there are many conditions under which they do not clear it out. No. 3. I have known stocks of starved and foul brood stand side by side, and yet never saw foul brood develop in the starved brood.

"Honey-starved Brood."—It is quite natural to look to the honey stores of a colony first, seeing it is the food of the adult bees, and one is slow to recommend pollen feeding, fearing to do more harm than good for reasons stated above. Usually pollen gathering and the good weather go hand in hand, and to feed pollen in bad weather may produce failure.

I am somewhat surprised that our friend Huxley did not feed pollen to some of his colonies; we should then have had better data to rely on, if these colonies had showed *Bacillus alvei*; then it would look as if he must look elsewhere for his first taint of infection.

"The conditions for brood rearing were ideal."—How could the condition be ideal with no pollen coming in and bees unable to fly and discharge their faeces? I can understand there being pale yellow, grey, brown, and black cells all in the same colony, but I have never seen pale yellow cells turn grey. Queen cells on the edge of the comb would be more likely to chill; hence the blackness, while those in the centre would go forward and suffer further.

If Mr. Huxley will keep a comb containing those few sealed cells in his hive for, say, six years, the bees won't get *Bacillus alvei* on their "moustache," they will leave the sealed cells alone; but after the six years, if these cells are experimented upon *a la Huxley*, you will have foul brood again, in the colony in its active form. On the other hand, if these cells are cut out with a $\frac{3}{8}$ -in. round pointed gauge—first cut down one pair of the adjacent walls, then a second pair, and with the third pair you lift out the cells, with its spores and cocoons clearing down to the mid-rib, and your disease is gone.—Yours, J. GRAY, *Expert and C.C. Lecturer, Long Eaton, Derbyshire, Feb. 4th*.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A SCOT.—We have not heard anything for several months of the publication referred to.

INQUIRER.—*Mead*.—A wooden vessel must be used. Honey bottles will not do. Use wine bottles—clear glass for show purposes, new corks sealed and wired. A spirit cask will answer if steamed. Store the bottles, on their sides, in a cool place.

THOS. BRANNIGAN (*Armagh*).—*Insurance*.—We await a stamped and addressed envelope. T. CURLEY (*Co. Westmeath*). It is necessary for you to send us 7d. to complete your subscription to December 31st, and stamped, addressed envelope.

J. ASHLEY (*Hunts*).—See "To Correspondents," February issue, page 110.

Received too late for insertion:—G. W. Avery, A. Reid, T. Curley, "Learner," J. Huxley, &c.

GRATUITOUS CIRCULATION.—Back numbers sent to the following:—S. Thompson, Co. Antrim, 24.

The Month's Work.

The month of March will see renewed activity in the apiary. Breeding will be general in all populous colonies. As the month advances, the brood nest will be gradually extended, with a greater consumption of stores resulting.

FEEDING.—Take advantage of the first fine day, and give each stock a cake of flour candy. Note the condition of stores without disturbing any of the frames. If any stocks are found to be in actual want, a quart or two of thick, warm syrup, given as fast as the bees will take it, will be of benefit. Otherwise, rest content. Those stocks are best off, and will be most profitable, which require no feeding until April is well in.

ARTIFICIAL POLLEN.—In districts where natural pollen is not plentiful, the bees may be greatly helped if supplied with artificial pollen close to their hives. Pea flour may be shaken into the blossoms of spring flowers, or given in a small box, protected from rain, and with a little grass or straw on which the bees may alight. At the end of the month, when stocks are being manipulated, the pea flour may be dusted into the cells of an empty comb, and this comb may be placed next the brood nest.

MANIPULATING.—With the best intentions, beginners are inclined to commence stimulative feeding too soon, or to open up the hive, just to see how the brood is getting on. Have a little more patience, and you will find that the

brood nest will develop much more rapidly if undisturbed at present. You should at this time help nature by preserving the natural heat of the brood nest, instead of pulling the hive to pieces every few days, and so running the risk of chilling the brood. More queens are lost about the time that egg-laying first begins than is supposed, the loss being put down to any other cause than that of early manipulation. The bees, in their eagerness to save their queen, crowd round her, and, in fact, hug her to death. Any excitement caused by frequent opening of the hives now, or by early stimulation, tells on the strength of the colony. However, no hard and fast rule can be laid down, as cases may occur which will require prompt attention. Each individual must use his own judgment, and act with caution until we have a continuance of fine weather.

SPRING CLEANING.—If there has been a continuance of fine weather, and if the bees have been flying freely, a full examination may be made at any time from the end of the month, provided that the weather is favourable. Provide a clean, empty hive, and place it on the stand of the one to be examined, removing the latter a little to one side. Transfer the combs to the new hive in the same order, contracting the hive to those combs really covered by bees. By so doing, crowding the bees on fewer combs, the heat of the hive is increased. Change any quilts or packing that may have become damp; add more covering; reduce the doorways to one bee space until all danger of robbing is over. Queenless stocks, as well as weak ones, should be united to their next door neighbours. As hives become vacant they should be first painted with a solution of carbolic, thoroughly washed with boiling water, and given a coat of oil paint, before being set aside for future use.—W. MORONY.

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A
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EDITOR
J. G. DICKES
M.A.

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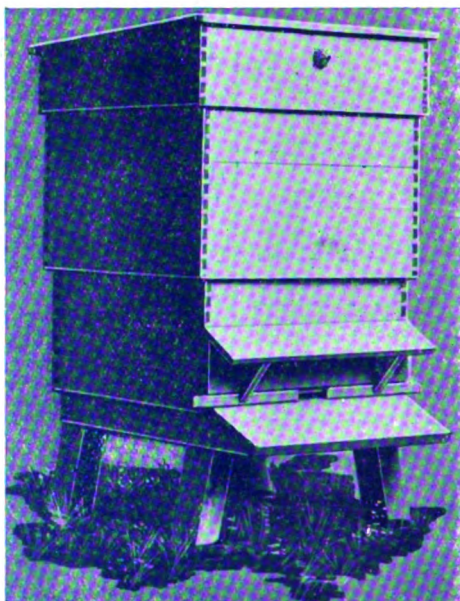
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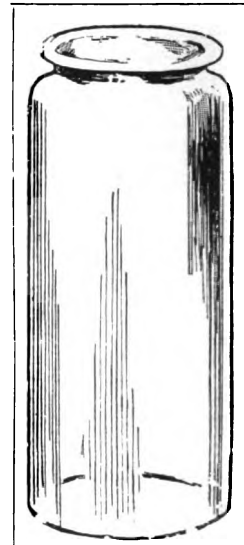
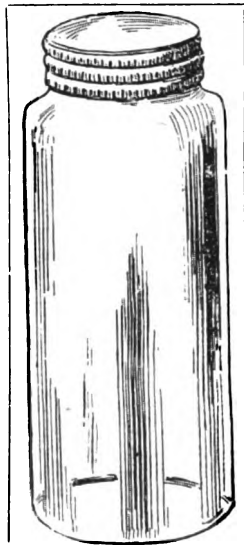
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IRISH BEE JOURNAL

MONTHLY BEEKEEPERS' GAZETTE



Foul Brood Legislation.

It will be good news to the beekeepers in this country, the announcement of the passing of the Bee Pest Prevention (Ireland) Act, 1908, the text of which we publish this month. For more than eight years their hope of legislative relief encouraged them to carry on the agitation which now has been crowned with success. Besides agitating, there was a good deal of solid work to be done before any immediate prospect of Governmental support presented itself. There was inexplicable hostility in high places to be overcome. There were indifference, and ignorance, and incapacity to be combated. There were more than thirty County Councils to be converted to the proposals, and over 100 members of Parliament to be enlisted upon our side. There was, finally, the Department of Agriculture to be won over. All these things were accomplished. But it was not until Mr. T. W. Russell had taken up the reins, and had declared himself in favour of the movement, that it became possible to look forward with any confidence to an early realisation of our hopes. Beekeepers in this country should never forget their indebtedness to the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture. When once he was convinced of the necessity for legislation, he acted with the strength and promptitude which are characteristics of the man, and proved himself an invaluable friend to the industry. Thanks are due also to the following, who assisted the amendment and the passing of the Bill:—Lords Lansdowne, Mayo, and Donoughmore, Captain James Craig, and Messrs. Boland, Lardner, T. F. Smyth, H. Law and P. A. McHugh.

Our readers are now in a position to form

their own opinions of the Act. It is not all that we could have desired, but it is better than many expected. As at first printed, it contained many serious defects and omissions, and we are bound to say that as it left the House of Commons it was very far short, indeed, of what was required. But in the House of Lords it became possible to get the Bill into better shape. The additions and amendments introduced during the passage of the Bill through Parliament we have printed in italics. In Clause 2, the powers are limited, so far as officers of the Department are concerned, to such as belong to the agricultural branch of the Department and are duly authorised. Clause 5, which was introduced in the House of Lords, makes provisions without which the Act would have been practically worthless. In clause 8, sub-section b, words have been added providing for remedies other than destruction, where such remedies may be usefully employed. We print also what in the original Bill was sub-section 4 of Clause 5, and has been deleted. Had this sub-section been allowed to remain in the Bill, the claim for compensation would have been very seriously affected. On the whole, it will probably be agreed that the Act goes a long way towards accomplishing what we all desire. It may require certain amendments in the future, but, as it stands, it can be applied with excellent effect. We have no doubt that, if rightly used, it will render invaluable assistance in the struggle with Foul Brood in this country.

Already we have received a large number of letters from English and Scotch readers congratulating Ireland upon her success, and expressing regret at the exclusion of Great Britain from the benefits of such legislation. The *British Bee Journal* thinks that its readers "will learn, no doubt with mingled feelings," that the Bill "is practically the law of the land in the Green Isle." We do not know what the "mingled feelings" of readers of our contemporary may be: but we remember that when English and Irish beekeepers were working harmoniously together in an effort to obtain legis-

Contributed Articles.

Beekkeeping—A Profitable Industry.

By T. J. CROWE.

A short while ago the Vice-President of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction astonished the readers of daily and other papers by the statement that one of his correspondents had made a profit by beekkeeping, in one season, amounting to a sum represented by three figures. The statement was variously received according to the temperament and knowledge of the reader. The sceptic sneered, and openly questioned its veracity. The victim of what the late Mr. Gladstone called "megalo-mania," or madness for big things, could not be convinced that creatures so far beneath his notice as bees could make such a return. Bees, indeed! A good racing stud is the thing to make money out of. The cautious man asked himself could it be true, went to the nearest up-to-date beeman, inquired into his income and expenditure per hive, and forthwith bought a copy of "The Irish Bee Guide." The over-sanguine saw in beekkeeping a short cut to fortune, and hastily determined to embark in the industry at once. On the other hand, the experienced man, with years of work at the craft behind him, saw nothing in the statement to excite either wonder or disbelief. Even though circumstances may have made it necessary or advisable for him to work on a small scale only, he yet knows the possibilities of his industry, and knows that with care and skill the results attained by Mr. Russell's correspondent are well within the limits of the practicable.

The past season, though not extraordinary, was a good one, and the results attained give a very fair idea of what average profits amount to. In well-managed apiaries the average return per hive was about four crates of sections—say, eighty sections. These at 6d. each would be worth £2, and the outlay would be as follows:—Super foundation (1 lb.), 2s. 9d.; Brood Foundation ($\frac{3}{4}$ lb.), 1s. 6d.; Sections, 2s. 3d.; Bee Food, 1s.; Interest on original outlay, 1s. 6d.; Total, 9s. After deducting 9s. from £2, a balance of £1 11s. remains, representing the nett result to the beekeeper. In a well-managed apiary a trifle extra would be made out of wax, and this would balance depreciation. It must, of course, be admitted that seasons come when this profit is impossible, but, on the other hand,

seasons come, too, when much larger profits can be made, and the extraordinary seasons on either side balance each other.

While in a small or medium apiary an average profit of £1 10s. per hive can be made with care and skill, the inexperienced must not jump to the conclusion that this profit can be multiplied by multiplying the number of hives in the same proportion. A large apiary demands increased skill and experience, and greater organising and executive capacity, together with a good district. Given these, a large average and aggregate profit is quite practicable, and the figures quoted by Mr. Russell are not at all outside the limits of the attainable.

Comb Cappings.

By JOHN SILVER, *Croydon.*

Colour of Hives (page 71).—Are bees really aided by colour to distinguish their hives? More probably it is the shape, size and general make up of the hive and surrounding objects which are the principal factors. Bees seem to be able to count numbers, such as the second hive from the end, the third hive in the row, and so on; if you think they cannot count, just try them by adding a hive to the outside of the row. A friend of mine of some experience considers that locality and surroundings are the main guides, the scent next, and that different colours are no advantage.

One-year Beekeeper.—Mr. Heffernan (page 66) is sailing far too smoothly to last; he should look out for squalls and rough weather, because the story of every beekeeper (to which the IRISH BEE JOURNAL bears witness) shows that soon after commencing, some adverse experience is sure to come along. Too often this backwash results in throwing up the whole thing in disgust. There are numerous hidden rocks along the bee and honey coast. If there were not, there would be no use for Bee journals and Bee guides. But, perhaps, Pilot McGrath and the IRISH BEE JOURNAL and "Guide" may enable Mr. Heffernan to steer clear. But "I ha'e ma doots."

Dr. Miller (page 62).—Concerning the remarks of Editor Root and Dr. Miller, in the American *Gleanings*, on my statement in August issue of IRISH BEE JOURNAL on Queen Rearing, permit me to suggest to Dr. Miller that it is not the heat of the hive, or the strength of the colony which accounts for the difference in the time of a queen's hatching. For example, I have had three cells sealed during the same morning, one would hatch in six or seven days after being sealed, another eight days, while the

third might take nine or ten days. I have further observed that some of the best developed queens are those which take nine days to hatch after being sealed; consequently I cannot agree with Dr. Miller that it is the heat of the hive, because different times occur in the same hive, or that a queen is any the worse for taking 17 or 18 days to hatch.

Queen Buying and Introduction (page 58).—Much friction occasionally arises over queens; some queen vendors plainly state they won't take any risks, but only guarantee safely packed; others are silent until a dead queen is returned, when they promptly disqualify the buyer, because the cage has been opened. Sometimes novices at queen selling are very unsatisfactory. I recently heard of a case where a queen was sent through the post alone, she was dead on arrival, while the novice vendor in his conceit could not see that he had done wrong and refused to supply another. In introducing queens those cages which require the hive to be disturbed to liberate a queen are faulty and unreliable. The average beekeeper requires a cage to enable him to do either of the following:—(1) To cage a queen and her attendants quickly without touching the queen. (2) To introduce a queen into a hive at any time of the day or year, even when supers are on, by simply taking away the old queen, and, at the same operation, putting in the new one without any further manipulation, with the certainty that she will be accepted. (3) The same cage designed to introduce over feed hole if required. (4) The same cage also suitable to send queen by post. After numerous trials and experiments I have at last devised a cage for my own use which will fulfil all four conditions.

Uniting (page 63).—My remarks in the November issue on uniting by taking away both queens appear to have excited more than average interest. I would add that I recently discovered this method quite by accident and a series of experiments has convinced me that this plan will work well every time. Although I have read almost every work on apiculture, I have not observed this plan stated in any of them. I also find that swarms or driven bees can be added to an established stock at any time of the day without fighting, if both queens have previously been taken away, and the bees have had sufficient time to discover their loss—sometimes half an hour or an hour is quite sufficient.

Death and Destruction of Healthy Bees is due most commonly, to blameworthy neglect on the part of the owner. The "Irish Bee Guide" tells, in words easy to be understood, how losses may be avoided, and profits gained. It costs two shillings, but saves many pounds. By hundreds of successful beekeepers it is held to be—"The best book on the subject."

Marketing Honey.

BY JOSEPH TINSLEY.

It is undoubtedly true that with honey and all saleable products we cannot compare at all favourably with either the Colonials or the foreigner.

There is a reason for this. In the Colonies and foreign countries people entirely depend upon the sales of their products for a living. A fruit-grower is a fruit-grower, and a beekeeper is a beekeeper. Now in these islands we take up these minor industries as side-lights—additions to our income; consequently as our whole existence does not depend on the sale of honey, we are naturally a trifle careless, and place it on the market in anything but a satisfactory form, and whatever it realises, well, we grumble, but content ourselves with the idea that it might have been worse.

It is an absolute fact that there is equally as much difficulty in selling honey as in producing it, and if the beekeeper is successful in one respect he is bound to meet with success in the other. Undoubtedly one of the great hindrances to the sale of honey at the present time is that the majority of the public do not know the real delicious taste of the genuine article. True, the skep honey, with its concoction of dead bees, larvæ, pollen, etc., did little towards the creation of a good palate, but when the taste has once been cultivated, there is no further difficulty, and repeat orders follow.

The first point we can learn from the foreigner is the grading of honey. If you see a consignment of apples from America you will always notice that there are several grades. The very best in size, colour, etc., are carefully sorted and termed grade No. 1. Another picking forms grade No. 2, and so on, and it is obvious that twice the money is obtained from the very best, and yet if they were all mixed together the whole lot would command a very poor price. Of course, a few damaged and small apples placed in one consignment would depreciate the lot considerably, particularly in a shop window.

Now apply this to honey; and we will take "Extracted" first. Well, we have the chance of obtaining all colours and grades, but the first point, "Colour," can be easily dealt with. The combs are taken from the hives, and by holding to a strong light the colour of honey can be easily ascertained. These should all be sorted before extracting, and marked. Three grades should be arranged—viz., light, medium and dark. It may happen that even in one comb you get the three different colours, and in this case it will be necessary to extract portions at a time, or if not, the whole lot will be dark. It must be borne in mind that the light honeys command a readier and better price, and although the work may seem a trifle hard, we must consider that our competitors will go to more trouble than this to command our market.

The next point is "Density." Honey naturally varies in thickness, but if care is taken not to remove the honey before it is properly sealed, this will not constitute a difficulty. It often happens at the close of the harvest there are some unsealed cells, and it is advisable to just run these through the Extractor and either feed this "green" honey back to the bees in their food, or utilise it for household purposes. Half-a-dozen unsealed cells are sufficient to not only spoil the density, but will interfere considerably with the aroma of the honey. This particular portion is really "crude nectar." A golden rule to be remembered is that the longer the honey remains on the hive the richer does it become. Again, unripe honey sours, and if the public get a taste of this the chances of further orders will be lost. Above all try to give the honey to the public in the same form as the little chemist tries to give it to the beekeeper.

The extracting takes place, and the honey is properly sieved. It should be allowed to stand for a day or two in receptacles in a warm room, and the air bubbles will rise to the surface. These can be skimmed off. Nothing gives honey such an unsightly appearance as the presence of scum on the top of the liquid. If the honey is to be sold in bulk, no further trouble is necessary, but if in bottles, then the latter should be very carefully washed out; an ounce of shot combined with strong soapuds will achieve the object. Hard water leaves a sediment.

The class of bottle to a great extent will be left to the taste of the beekeeper, but here is a chance for the ingenuity of the seller. If a market is to be found, every conceivable size and shape of bottle must be tried to suit the purchaser's fancy. The one-pound and half-pound screw-capped glass bottles are hard to beat, and with a good light honey form a very attractive and pleasing effect in a shopkeeper's window.

A neat label also adds to the brightness of the commodity, and manufacturers offer some exceptionally pretty colours. It is an excellent plan to have one's name and address printed on the label, with some simple remarks on how the honey is gathered and stored by the little bee.

Shopkeepers experience much difficulty in selling granulated honey, and it will pay beekeepers to occasionally go round and exchange these for liquid ones. An excellent plan to overcome this difficulty is to bottle hot *i.e.*, heat the liquid honey to 120 degrees, and cork up while in this state. Many people complain that they injure honey considerably when bringing the granulated honey back to its liquid stage. This is quite true. The honey on the outside is treated to considerably more heat than that situated in the centre; but if the mass is constantly stirred, the difficulty will be obviated.

The next point is the selling, or finding fresh pastures to dispose of our commodity. An excellent plan is to try exhibiting, and at each Show to display your name and address. If one is successful in taking a few Prizes the newspapers soon record the fact, and so from this source alone you get a free advertisement. Only last week I had a letter from a successful exhibitor. He has taken 966 lbs. of honey (comb and extracted), and now at the end of October has sold the whole surplus, which has realised over £40. To achieve this object without any difficulty whatever speaks volumes for exhibiting - which undoubtedly is one of the best advertisements a beekeeper can have for the sale of his honey.

Another excellent plan is to try and persuade a grocer, near to one's own place, to try a few dozen bottles, say at 9/6 or 10/- per dozen. Arrange with him that he can have the same "for sale or return," and he will be agreeably surprised how soon people will be purchasing his stock. In the autumn and summer a very useful novelty is to display a comb of bees in an Observatory Hive in the window. The public will be attracted by the bees, and naturally see the object for their display. If the honey at the grocer's should candy, and these are not quite as saleable, the beekeeper will do well to exchange and liquify same himself.

A most useful means to sell honey is to advertise. Bee Journals and the *Exchange and Mart* are the most suitable; in fact, from these papers alone hundreds of tons of honey change hands. Three or four shillings judiciously expended in advertising will amply compensate the beeman and bring considerable orders.

Peddling honey is not practised here, but I think we can learn some valuable lessons from our American cousins in this respect. A very interesting account is given by Dan White, New London, Ohio, in A. I. Root's "A. B. C. of Bee Culture." The writer remarks - "I packed my grip and took 12 1lb. cans of honey and started out. About all I had in my grip was a good supply of leaflets on the value and medicinal pro-

perties of honey and 50 postcards addressed to myself. I got into the town just before dinner time; and after filling my pockets with leaflets, took one honey can and commenced business. I started down a street, and did not miss calling at every house. After ringing the bell, a lady would open the door and look at me with more or less suspicion. I would say - 'I made the call to ask you if your family were fond of honey.' They generally answered 'Yes,' but believed they would not buy any. 'Well,' I would answer, 'but I am giving it away, and should be glad to give you some in a dish.' Some would look astonished, others would smile and say 'That's funny,' but in every instance I was invited in. I would pour out the honey, then hand a leaflet, telling them to read every word of it. 'You will find it very interesting, etc.' Then, 'Here is a postal addressed to me, and should you desire to purchase a 12-lb. can put your name on the same and post to me, when on receipt I will deliver the honey.' Well there were enough cards put in the mail within five days to take 30 cans of honey. I promptly made the delivery, taking 20 extra cans that sold as fast as I could hand them out. Since then I have received orders for 50 more cases from the same town. It had got all over the town that a honey man had been selling *real* honey."

The writer computed that this one town would take on the average 2,000 lbs. of honey each year, and this result was achieved by his own personal trouble, 50 postcards and 200 leaflets.

This, no doubt, is an excellent method of bringing home to people's doors honey in its natural form. I have devoted much time to this particular branch of the industry, and peddling honey can be done in a very simple and easy way by procuring the assistance of a milk seller. Some time ago I persuaded a beekeeper, who was also a milk seller, to try this method, and in a very little time he had sold over 500 glass jars of honey at 1/- per jar, and is still buying more to keep up with his customers.

There is an unlimited market for the sale of this excellent article, and it is the fault of the beekeeper entirely if he fails by marketing his honey on a low margin of profit.



Irish Bee Journal, Ltd., Insurance Scheme, 1909.

In response to many requests, we supply, in this issue, the "Conditions," "Instructions" and "Application Forms" necessary to enable our friends to effect insurance for the year ending December 31, 1909, and we trust that full advantage may be taken of the Scheme. Attention is particularly directed to instructions *c* and *d*, strict observance of which is necessary to effect an insurance. This Scheme is open to all our readers in Great Britain and Ireland, whether members of a Beekeepers' Association, or not. The IRISH BEE JOURNAL, Ltd., reserve the right to decline applications for insurance where undue risk appears to them to arise through carelessness, or absence of due precautions, on the part of applicants.

CONDITIONS.

1. The premium is 1d. per stock of bees (minimum premium 6d.). The period of Insurance extends from January 1st, 1909, to December 31st, 1909, both days inclusive.
2. Persons who are not subscribers for the IRISH BEE JOURNAL up to December 31st, 1909, may insure on payment of the subscription, or of an additional fee of 6d.
3. The Insurance will not come into force with regard to any intending insurer until his or her premium shall

have been received, and accepted by the issue of a Certificate from the IRISH BEE JOURNAL Office.

4. If the insurer shall increase the number of his stocks beyond the number covered by the premium paid, he can only recover such proportion of the amount of any claim as the number of stocks paid for bears to the number of stocks in his apiary at the date of the injury being sustained.

5. It is a condition precedent to any claim under the Certificate of Insurance that in the event of injury caused by the bees of the insured he shall give notice thereof in writing to the Manager, IRISH BEE JOURNAL, LTD., Lough Rynn, R.S.O., Co. Leitrim, within seven days from the date of such injury, specifying the nature of the injury and its cause or causes; and further, that the insured shall not, without the written consent of the Manager, IRISH BEE JOURNAL, LTD., admit liability to any third party or parties.

The term "Apiary" means that portion of ground set apart for the accommodation of stocks of bees.

INSTRUCTIONS.

(a) Calculate the maximum number of stocks that you are likely to have during the year 1909, making due allowance for increase by swarms or otherwise.

(b) Ascertain the date up to which your subscription to the JOURNAL has been paid, and calculate the amount required to renew your subscription up to December 31st, 1909.

NOTE.—The date on the post wrapper indicates the month up to and including which the subscription has been paid.

(c) Fill up carefully and accurately the Application Form printed on page 83 of this issue, date it, and have your signature duly witnessed.

(d) Forward the Application Form, with a stamped and addressed envelope, and the amount of premium and subscription to December 31st, 1909 (if not already paid) to the Manager, IRISH BEE JOURNAL, LTD., Lough Rynn, R.S.O., Co. Leitrim.

NOTE.—It is to be distinctly understood that unless the above instructions are strictly followed, applications for insurance cannot be attended to. The Conditions, Instructions, and Application Form for 1909 will not be republished.

Beekeeping in Cornwall.

GREAT IMPROVEMENT IN THE INDUSTRY.

Mr. Cardell Williams, St. Erth, bee expert for Cornwall County Council, in his annual report for 1908, as submitted to the Agricultural Committee of the County Council, states that a great improvement is apparent in the industry during the present year. Still greater improvement is anticipated next year, as there is a greater demand for information in every branch of the industry from non-beekeepers as well as beekeepers throughout the county. During the visitations of the expert this year he has strongly recommended beekeeping in rural and depopulated districts, where the industry would be far more successful owing to the fact that bees in such places would be less subject to infection, and would be in the heart of bee forage. His aim has been to address small audiences in such districts, and this method of discussing the subject has proved more effective than addressing larger audiences, the reason being that more individual attention can be given. This year has been a successful one in stamping out foul brood, and, roughly, about 50 per cent. of foul brood has been eradicated in formerly infected areas. Disease is now apparent in scattered areas only. A number of beekeepers are now in position to detect

foul brood, and they attend to it before the destruction of the whole apiary takes place, as was the case in former years. The expert states that he has had little opposition in carrying out his duties and measures for the destruction of disease. In every case he has been cordially received by apiarists, who have rendered every assistance in performing his duties.

From the productive point of view the season has been an excellent one, and has been the best harvest of honey since 1896. To quote one example. A cottager in West Cornwall produced over one ton during the season, and he found a ready market for the entire quantity. The income derived from the sale amounted to over £80. Practically the whole county has been covered this year by the expert, and his recommendation for the introduction of new blood—viz., Italian bees—has been readily responded to, and very much approved of by those who have given the experiment a trial. This introduction of new blood has certainly proved beneficial in reducing disease. Some of the richest districts in the county are still thinly inhabited by bees, and next year more attention will be given to introducing the industry in such districts. The prospects of apiculture in Cornwall are very encouraging to all concerned.—*Western Morning News*.

Christmas Greetings.

The custom of sending picture post-cards as "Christmas Cards" has become so widespread that the Postmaster-General attributed to it the increase of revenue in his Department. Why should not beekeepers, who follow this custom, use cards in keeping with their industry, or hobby, and thus help to bring the industry more prominently before the public? We hold a large stock of picture post-cards of our own design, most suitable for use as Christmas and New Year Cards. These we supply at 1d. each, or 25 for 1/6, 50 for 2/6, 100 for 4/2, post free. Purchasers can have their "greetings" printed on the cards without extra charge. Readers whose portraits or apiaries, &c., have appeared in the JOURNAL can have these supplied, as picture post-cards, at the rates quoted elsewhere. See Notices and advertisements, page 84 and iv.

For Christmas and New Year's Gifts what can be more suitable than one or more of the books advertised on page iii.—books which will be read with interest by non-beekeepers, as well as by all who are in any way interested in natural history.

Meteorological Report.

(Prepared for the IRISH BEE JOURNAL.)

By SURGN. GENERAL ROE, C.B.

AT BALLYCONNELL, OCTOBER, 1908.

Average Maximum Temperature	... 60°.
Average Minimum	... 46°-48°.
Highest	... 72° on 3rd.
Lowest	... 30° on 26th.
Total Rainfall	... 1.53 inches.
Greatest19 " on 16th.
Number of Rainy Days	... 15.

Honey Imports.

The value of Honey imported into the United Kingdom in the month of October, 1908, was £1,743. From a Return supplied to the IRISH BEE JOURNAL by the Statistical Office H.M. Customs, London.

Our Readers at Home.

LIII.

LIEUT. AND QUARTERMASTER C. N. WHITE,
St. Neots.

It is with much pleasure that we publish the following letter from the veteran beekeeper, Lieut. and Quartermaster C. N. White, with pictures of himself and his apiary. He was one of the first to congratulate us upon the

a small portion of the Emerald Isle, and my experience of the Irish people and of Irish beekeeping and its prospects under favourable conditions made a lasting impression on my mind. I believe that the first expert's certificate granted in Ireland was as the result of an examination which I conducted on that occasion."

"For twenty-one years I was hon. sec. Hunts B.K.A., and held a similar position in Cambs and Isle of Ely Association for 10 years, and I was also for some time a member of the Council of the B.B.K.A. That was work I undertook for the love of the thing, and those positions, and that of hon. sec. Hunts and Cambs Teachers' Association held for ten years—I gave up on becoming master of St. Neot's Workhouse, eleven years ago. My bee work since has been confined to my own apiary, giving help to friends around, and using my pen to guide those further afield."

"Whatever success has been achieved in anything I have undertaken has been by bearing in mind the saying that 'there's plenty of room in the front,' and try-



C. N. WHITE.



MR. C. N. WHITE'S APIARY, Somersham.

passing of the Bee Pest Prevention (Ireland) Act, and he has always taken a lively interest in this JOURNAL and its mission. For many years he was a judge and lecturer for the British Beekeepers' Association. A grandfather, and a beekeeper of thirty years standing, he carries his age lightly. Long may he live. He writes:—

"My first knowledge of beekeeping was obtained when I became a pupil teacher with Mr. C. Winter, of Caistor, Lincolnshire, in 1868; but it was not till eleven years later that I started the apiary here shown. For twenty-two years I was a schoolmaster, and my summer holidays were usually given up to assist in spreading a knowledge of modern methods of bee culture. A part of my holiday in the summer of 1890 I spent in visiting

ing by quiet perseverance to get there. In the past eleven years I have done some work as is evidenced by the fact that since two of my sons entered the Poor Law service, one has become master of Grantham Workhouse, while the other is assistant master in Wrexham Workhouse."

"As soon as I entered the Poor Law service I assisted to start an association of masters and matrons in this district, comprising six counties, and recently, by a unanimous vote, occupied the presidential chair of the National Association of Workhouse Masters and Matrons."

"Another of my hobbies is volunteering. I was first efficient in 1876; then moving to a district where I could not rejoin, it was not till 1890 that I was once more in the ranks through getting a detachment formed at Somersham in connection with the 3rd Cambs Battalion. The volunteers in the county were disbanded three years later, and in 1900 I moved again by calling the first meet-

ing in favour of a new battalion. That was formed, a commission was offered me, and since that date I have been Lieut. and Quartermaster. I have recently returned from camp, where I have had the duties of Quartermaster to perform for the amalgamated battalions of Hunts and Bedford."

"My three sons became volunteers, and my second son went to the war in South Africa, where he stayed, and last year married a charming Dutch girl at Kimberley. The recent news from them makes me a grandfather for the third time."

"My successes, such as they are, I attribute in great measure to my wife, and I often wish that more men were blest as I am in this respect."

"My apiary at Somersham was completely ruined by foul brood being brought into the village, and no one can more heartily congratulate Irish beekeepers than I on their recent good luck in getting an Act for the suppression of foul brood passed."



The Isle of Wight Bee Fund.

Now that the bee season has again come to an end, and one gets more leisure and less work, it gives me much pleasure to send a few lines on behalf of my fellow-islanders to express the gratitude which we feel towards all who have helped to make the Isle of Wight Bee Fund the success which it has so far proved to be. It will be remembered that at the end of last winter the beekeeping industry on the Island was so completely annihilated that not more than about 20 stocks of bees were left alive on the whole Island, apiary after apiary having been swept away by this terrible unnamed disease, leaving whole areas in different parts without a single bee being left to mourn over the departed.

The idea of a Fund for re-stocking the Island originated in a letter by Mr. L. S. Crawshaw to the *B.B.J.* Considerable discussion ensued in beekeeping circles, culminating in numerous offers of assistance. We cannot over-estimate the great help rendered by Col. Walker, who not only assisted financially; but by becoming Hon. Treasurer his influence spread confidence among those willing to help. Mr. J. Silver, of Croydon, undertook the task of organising, his visit to the Island last year giving him a first-hand acquaintance with our position. One of the duties which fell to my lot was to see that every precaution was undertaken, and that apiaries were thoroughly disinfected. We insisted on all hives being properly cleaned, and then charred out with a hot flame, old quilts burnt, and the ground limed or a fresh spot chosen, and that all packages in which bees had been sent were retained in the Island. In the spring it was difficult to procure good stocks, and swarms were also very scarce. Indeed, Mr. Silver says that owing to disappointment in swarms it entailed a lot of extra work. However, in spite of difficulties, bees gradually came over the Solent from different parts of England and Ireland. About 60 lots in all have been sent to the Island in connection with the Fund. These were placed about in different places, care being taken that no two lots from the same district were put near together. Four of this number were practically ruined on the journey, while some of the earlier lots have swarmed, and are now increased to nearly 70 stocks. Up to the present time, every colony, whether stock, swarm, or driven lot, sent since the Fund was initiated early in the year, is doing well, while some of the early arrivals have yielded a decent surplus of honey, in one case the take being 60 1-lb. sections.

The importations of these bees has also led to a general clearing up of infected matter, hives have been thoroughly disinfected and old combs burnt. The average

beekeeper is taking a much greater interest in his bees than formerly, and there seems to be a general improvement taking place all round. Others, too, seeing the bees apparently doing well, have sent and purchased stocks; in every case, I believe, followed by good results. In one instance a single beekeeper imported as many as 17 stocks. Although at the present moment all appears fairly well, it is too early to judge results. For this we must wait till the spring. Various methods of wintering are being adopted at the suggestion of Mr. Silver and others, from which we hope to obtain valuable experience.

In spite of the number of experiments tried during the past two or three years we are as yet utterly unable to give any reliable explanation of the cause of the Isle of Wight bee disease, or to prescribe any effectual remedy. Mr. Silver, however, claims to have discovered a method of treatment which he thinks will be successful, but confirmation is wanted whether the cures his method has effected were cases caused by heat and foul air, or a real Isle of Wight malady. Your readers will be glad to learn that, thanks to the impetus of the Isle of Wight Bee Fund, the present feeling is one of hope and the promise of brighter things, and if these stocks come through the winter well there will be a big boom in beekeeping next spring in the Island.—H. M. COOPER, *Thorley, I. W., Nov. 14th, 1908.*

A Philological Recreation.

THE NAMES OF HONEY AND BEE IN DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.

The following seem to have a common origin:—

Irish— <i>Mil</i> (honey).	Latin— <i>Apis</i> .
Breton— <i>Mel</i> .	Italian— <i>Ape</i> .
Welsh— <i>Mel</i> .	French— <i>Abeille</i> .
Greek— <i>μέλι</i>	Spanish— <i>Abeja</i> .
Latin— <i>Mel</i> .	Irish— <i>Beac</i> or <i>Beic</i> .
French— <i>Miel</i> .	English— <i>Bee</i> .
Italian— <i>Miele</i> .	German— <i>Biene</i> ; plur. <i>Bienen</i> .
Spanish— <i>Miel</i> .	Welsh— <i>Gwenynen</i> ; pl. <i>gwenyn</i> .
	Breton— <i>Gwenanen</i> ; pl. <i>gwenan</i> .

Any reader not acquainted with the character of the Welsh and Breton will see not much resemblance between these two languages and the foregoing. On this score it is well to remark that the Welsh and Bretons do, at the beginning of their words, somewhat like the Irish at the end of theirs. They use adventitious consonants for the sake of euphony to soften the language, and are especially very partial to the use of *g*. Thus they say "*gwin*" (wine) which certainly comes from the Latin "*vinum*"; also "*gwenan*" (bees), "*gwirionez*" (truth), "*gwez*" (trees), etc., which, according to rules too long to be enumerated here, they make: "*he win*" (his wine), "*ar wenanen*" (the bee), "*ar wirionez*" (the truth), "*ar wezen*" (the tree). The *g*, therefore, which does not belong to the word proper, being taken away, there remains "*wenanen*" or "*wenan*." Now comes into play another important rule which is a puzzle to those acquainted only with modern languages, but which was in constant use with the old Greeks and Latins, and is still in use among the Spaniards, the Welsh, the Bretons, and, to some extent, the Irish, namely, the commutation of initial consonants, such as:—

<i>b</i> into <i>v</i>	<i>t</i> into <i>d</i>
<i>p</i> into <i>b</i>	<i>m</i> into <i>v</i> , etc.

e.g., *Tad* (father), *ra zad* (my father), *he dad* (his father).

Thus, returning to the words that have called for these remarks, "*wenanen*" or "*wenan*" should be radically "*benanen*," "*benan*," which is indeed very similar to the

German "*bienen*" from which, by contraction or corruption, has come the English word "Bee."

As a closing remark, I may add that probably few people are aware to what extent the Irish, Welsh and Breton languages are related to each other. You may judge from the following taken at random:—

IRISH.	BRETON.	WELSH,	
<i>Daid</i>	<i>Tad</i>	<i>Dad</i>	Father.
<i>Toll</i>	<i>Toull</i>	<i>Twill</i>	Hole.
<i>Troidh</i>	<i>Troad</i>	<i>Troed</i>	Foot.
<i>Truas</i>	<i>Trucz</i>	—	Pity, compassion.
<i>Meas</i>	<i>Mezen</i> (pl. <i>Mcz</i>)	<i>Mesen</i>	Acorns.
<i>Marbh</i>	<i>Maro</i>	<i>Marw</i>	Dead, benumbed.
<i>Toas</i>	<i>Toaz</i>	<i>Toes</i>	Dough.
<i>Dall</i>	<i>Dall</i>	—	Blind.
<i>Milbhir</i>	<i>Mel-bir</i>	—	Honey-mead.
<i>Mellteac</i>	<i>Mel-ti</i>	—	Honey-house.
<i>Meala</i>	<i>Mela</i>	—	To sweeten with honey.

Hundreds of words more might easily be found.—VERY
REV. F. M. MASSÉ, *St. Mary's Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Devon.*

Destruction of Hives and Honey.

SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGES AWARDED.

At the Enniskillen Quarter Sessions, before his Honor County Court Judge Craig, K.C., James A. Aiken, Kesh, claimed £12 5s. 6d., the value of three beehives, containing bees and honey, his property, which were maliciously injured on the night of the 13th July, 1908, or the following morning.

Mr. Aiken said he had nine hives of bees in his garden in Kesh, and he had got a large number of first prizes for his honey at different shows. Three of these hives were tossed and injured. Two of them were upset completely, and the third was knocked sideways. About 300lbs. of honey was lost. One of the queen bees was destroyed. He had got this queen from England. The value of the queen, when he got her, was 6s., and she was worth twice that amount when he lost her.

Mr. Peter Brock, Instructor in Horticulture and Bee-keeping under the Fermanagh County Committee of Agriculture and Technical Instruction, said Mr. Aiken was the most experienced beekeeper in Ulster, as was testified by the number of prizes he had been winning. He estimated Mr. Aiken's loss as a result of the injury to the beehives, etc., at £12 5s. 6d.

Head Constable Humphreys, Kesh, said, in consequence of a report made to him he visited Mr. Aiken's garden. The whole garden was swarming with bees. It was rather dangerous. However, he made his way into the garden. He saw the three hives upset.

His Honor said he really had only one question to decide, and that was the amount of damages that Mr. Aiken had sustained. Mr. Brock was a highly intelligent man, and knew a great deal more about bees than he (his Honor) did, and his evidence was uncontradicted. He appeared to be a perfectly honest and candid witness, and he saw no reason to go behind the figures he had given. He awarded Mr. Aiken £12 5s. 6d.—*Fermanagh Times.*

A Rare Curiosity is worth looking for.—The following extract from a letter tells where the search should be made: "For my part, I would feel interested in the man who could read the 'Irish Bee Guide' through, and still not go in for beekeeping, as I should consider him a curiosity."—J. McClelland, Galway. For 2/- the "Irish Bee Guide" may be procured and the curiosity sought for. *See advertisement.*

Expert Advice.

Queries must reach the Editor, Lough Rynn, R.S.O., Co. Leitrim, NOT LATER THAN THE 18TH OF THE MONTH. Urgent queries requiring replies per post must be accompanied by a STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE. Replies will be telegraphed WHEN FULL ADDRESS IS GIVEN, AND 6D. ENCLOSED FOR COST OF TELEGRAM. Address for Telegrams—"DIGGES, MORILL." Writing should be on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY.

WAX-SECRETING BEES ON THE WING.

(414.) The enclosed specimen is one of a number of bees that in August were flying from hive. Some of them were formed up in line at the hive entrance fanning air. (a) Is it a common occurrence for bees to be flying with wax plates attached? (b) I should also like to know if it is usual for the wax scales to be of such enormous size? The *B.B.J.* suggested that the ventilation of the hive was at fault, but I can guarantee that such was not the case. *SAM YANK, England.*

REPLY.—(a) It is unusual, even when, through lack of ventilation, the temperature of the hive is high. It will sometimes occur, especially with nuclei in small hives, when careless manipulators break up the cluster, and use excessive smoke, or carbolic solution too strong, or when a virgin queen has just gone out on her mating trip. (b) There is nothing unusual in the size of the wax scales.

FEEDING. IRON HIVE LEGS, &c.

(415.) Knowing your anxiety to help beginners at bee-keeping with their difficulties, I venture to write you:— (a) Is it too late to give candy, not that it is actually required, but I see by your "Guide" that you continually harp on the advisability of giving this kind of feeding. Also I would like your opinion of meal legs for hives. (b) Do you recommend them, and where can they be obtained? The reason I raise this point is that I am afraid of the wooden legs rotting without my knowledge, and causing endless trouble? (c) Would it be worth while working two hives for drained honey. This is a very good district, the chief source being clover and hawthorn. My bees have the advantage of being situated practically under sycamore trees. Although this is really my first season, I have, I am told, done very well. (d) My two hives yielded a couple of crates each, which I was able to sell at an average of about 9/- per dozen. I had one swarm, but it was so small that I gave it to a friend to unite with a weak stock of his (where, by the way, I keep my bees along with his). (e) Would it be possible to start a branch of the I.B.K.A. in this district? It could be made to embrace Bangor, Donaghadee, Helen's Bay, Newtownards and Holywood. This would include a large country district. Needless, perhaps, to say, I am a great reader of all bee literature, and I enjoy your spirited little paper, the *I.B.J.*—*ENTHUSIAST, Co. Down.*

REPLY.—(a) No. (b) Any of the appliance dealers who advertise in our columns can supply these. We do not consider them essential. An annual overhaul of your hives will provide against such results as you fear. (c) Yes. (d) You have not done badly at the start. (e) Quite possible, and very desirable. Rules for local Associations were published in this *JOURNAL* recently, and may be had for 1d. post free. You should communicate with Mr. M. H. Read, Coolgreagh, Terenure, Dublin, *Hon. Sec. Irish Beekeepers' Association.*

Association Report.

CROYDON AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION.

This go-ahead association held its monthly meeting on Nov. 12th. There was a large and representative attendance. Mr. E. R. Seadon, The Baldwin Apiaries, Bromley, delivered a lecture, and displayed a number of lantern slides illustrative of Modern Beekeeping, the slides having been supplied for the occasion from the IRISH BEE JOURNAL Office. There were also some excellent slides of Mr. Seadon's manufacture, including a picture of a hive on the Huber principle, and charming portraits of The Misses Seadon and Wakerell—"baby beekeepers," manipulating their little pets. Mr. Seadon's lecture, which was followed with marked attention by the audience, was of a most instructive nature, and the scenes of Irish bee life and management which he threw upon the screen were described with the accuracy of a man "to the manner born." At the conclusion of the lecture, the Editor of the IRISH BEE JOURNAL, who had been invited to the meeting, was called upon for a speech, and received a most generous reception. Mr. Wakerell, Hon. Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Digges. Mr. John Silver seconded the proposition, and in the course of his remarks referred to the "Irish Bee Guide," stating that in the Croydon Library that book is in more demand than all the other bee books put together. The Croydon Association had started on lines entirely different from those followed by other British Associations, and already the British Beekeepers' Association had taken a leaf out of the Croydon book by recommending the planting of trees suitable for bee forage. The vote having been passed by acclamation, Mr. Digges briefly expressed his acknowledgments, and said that during his stay in London he had already been gratified more than he could well express by the proofs of friendship extended to him, not only on the part of that Association, but also by many prominent English beekeepers who had travelled to London, some of them long distances, to meet him. He was delighted to know that the Croydon Association, under the guidance of its popular and efficient officials, was moving ahead rapidly and was doing excellent work. For himself, and on behalf of his Irish friends, he wished for the Association a life long, merry, and prosperous. Mr. John Silver proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer. The vote was passed with hearty applause, and Mr. Seadon, in reply, stated that it had given him great pleasure to do anything in his power for the Association. The impressions which the Editor gathered at the meeting were such as he had anticipated, having been in touch with the Association almost from its inception. There is a degree of originality in the methods followed, and a spirit of enterprise in the leaders, which make for real progress and success. Conversation with some of the members, when the meeting had concluded, showed that keenness is not confined to the officials. The rank and file of the Association is composed of enthusiastic beekeepers, progressive in their views, and well informed upon all matters associated with their industry. To meet them was a refreshing and an encouraging experience. One came away with the conviction that the Croydon Association will make its mark in the history of British Beekeeping.

◆◆◆◆◆
Black Brood may be new or old, black or white, curable or incurable. But, whatever differences of opinion there may be on that subject, all are agreed that the *Saturday Review* was right when it said,—"*The Irish Bee Guide*" is probably **THE BEST PRACTICAL GUIDE** to Beekeeping that has been published." 2/3 per post. 3/4 in art linen binding—from the IRISH BEE JOURNAL Office and of all Booksellers.

Few things are impossible to diligence and skill.

Samuel Johnson.

Our Letter Bag.

Letters for publication must reach the Editor, I. B. Journal, Lough Kynn, R.S.O., Co. Leitrim, not later than the 18th of the month, must be written on ONE SIDE OF THE PAPER ONLY, and must be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers—not necessarily for publication. The writers are alone responsible for the opinions expressed in their communications. We do not undertake to return rejected correspondence.

BEE FEVER.

DEAR SIR,—Would you kindly forward a copy of "The Irish Bee Guide" to , at your earliest convenience (to-morrow if possible, as he has a *very serious* attack of bee fever!), also a copy of the IRISH BEE JOURNAL for September. Our friend purchased a couple of bar frame hives at an auction this week, and he applied to me to know what to do, and also where to get the best information; so, of course, the "Irish Bee Guide" is the only thing for him. I don't know what state the hives are in or how strong, but am writing him as fully as I can, and with the help of the "Guide" he ought to be able to winter them successfully. He is a complete novice—I don't know that he has ever even had a sting—and an office man, so I hope the attack will last. Also kindly send me a copy of the "Guide" and a few back numbers of the JOURNAL, as I have some other friends who are taking up the subject.—C. P., Co. Meath.

SEPTEMBER SWARMS.

SIR,—The alleged swarm in a grocer's shop (page 62) was, doubtless, not a swarm at all. I have been called upon to secure a "swarm" in a grocer's shop in St. Andrew's in September. There was a large supply of section honey exposed in the shop, and the laden bees were caught by the window and made prisoners.—J. W. CHEETHAM, *Cupar, N.B., Nov. 8.*

[To the uninitiated writers in the Press a handful of bees anywhere is invariably a swarm. Therefore we printed it "swarm," page 62. The swarms referred to in the same Note were genuine September swarms.—ED.]

AN OCTOBER SWARM.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—I have had considerable experience with bees, but the following is a puzzle to me. On the first Friday in October a small swarm issued from some of my stocks, settled in a hedge, and after some time disappeared. Next afternoon they were on the wing again and settled in a hedge. Near night I put a box over them, and after dark ran them up into it with carbolic feather. I placed the box on the roof of one of my hives to give them the chance of returning to the stock whence they came. On Sunday morning they left it and spent half an hour whirling about the garden; then they went back to their box on the roof. Early on Monday morning I hived them on two or three frames behind a dummy. They were then in a very cold and heartless looking condition. They remain where I put them. I did not examine them for a queen. I do not know from what stock they issued, nor what is the state of affairs inside that stock now, with regard to queen cells, drones, etc. I have 24 stocks, all of which I had been feeding up for winter. It was not an absconding stock, as they were all working afterwards. I have thought, perhaps, this would be of interest to your readers.—R. W., Co. Tyrone, Oct. 19th.

THE SEASON.

DEAR SIR,—The month of October has been exceptionally mild here, and the bees have gathered quite an amount of pollen and honey from the ivy. The

summer weather we had for several days seems to have upset the bees' calculations, and they have started breeding again as if it were spring. The water troughs were also much visited. On the 28th of Oct. I had one of those pleasant surprises a beekeeper enjoys so much in spring. From a hive which had an Italian mother introduced at the end of the honey season, a crowd of young Italian bees took their first flight. We are quite satisfied with the honey harvest, the average being about fifty pounds per hive. We had several hundred pounds of true heather honey from ling, of which there are considerable stretches on the Dartmoor. I suppose you saw a description of our apiary in *Gleanings*, June 1. It was written almost two years ago. I do not know why they delayed it so long. I suppose they had no space. Lately a big novel of more than 400 pages has been written about Buckfast Abbey. The bees are mentioned quite often in it. It is published by Methuen & Co., under the title "Arnould the Englishman," by Francis Aveling.—Yours truly—F. M. MASSÉ, O.S.B., *St. Mary's Abbey, Buckfastleigh, Devon.*

APPRECIATIONS.

SIR—I may add that the reading of your "Irish Bee Guide" created such "bee fever" in me that I had to get a stock.—M. KING, *Co. Roscommon.*

SIR—May I say what a grand book your "Irish Bee Guide" is. It is most complete, and a treat to read, even if one did not keep bees at all.—T. BELL M.D., *Co. Down.*

DEAR SIR—I have received the copy of "Irish Bee Guide," which I think is admirable. I have not yet been able to read it all through but from what I have seen of it so far, I should say that it is the best and most up-to-date work on apiculture that I have come across.—A. D. SHAW, *Lancashire.*

SIR—I have learned a great deal of useful information from your JOURNAL in the past, and largely through its use I have made beekeeping a profitable occupation as well as an enjoyable pastime.—REV. W. J. McASKIE, *Co. Tyrone.*

DRONE COMB AND AMATORY BEEKEEPING.

SIR.—Mr. Read's letter on the above subject in your last number calls for a few further remarks. His argument that "the fatigue work of feeding useless drones is a work of love to the whole stock" appears to me to embody the most unique theory in modern beekeeping. Personally, I do not consider the "love" point of view justifies the waste, and, judging from the unceremonious treatment the poor drones receive at the end of the season, the bees themselves are not over-sentimental either. If drone combs be required, why not use drone foundation and wire the frames, as all frames should be for extraction? His suggestion "that the drones should be allowed to hatch," thus involving the production of the comb one season and using it in future, is, coming from a man of experience, simply astounding. There is a passage in "The Irish Bee Guide," page 125, which Mr. Read might do well to ponder over:—

"A third circumstance incident to swarming lies in the breeding of excessive quantities of drones—fussy, and somewhat pushful insects which raise the temperature of the hive, and by their very presence suggest, continuously, the rearing of young queens. Therefore, the production of drones should be limited by the use of only worker-cell foundation, and in full sheets, wired, to prevent breakage, and consequent construction of drone cells, and also by cutting out unnecessary drone comb when discovered in the hive."

That passage is worth many times the price of the whole book, and a wagon-load of Mr. Read's theories thrown in. If Mr. Read will try, he will find it quite possible to space eight worker combs to occupy the place of ten, just as well as drone combs, and they will hold about the same quantity of honey. This wide spacing

is now practically universal among experienced beekeepers. If he is still unshaken in his preference for drone combs and amatory beekeeping, he is quite welcome to his choice, but as for me, to parody the poet:—"Let him tak' the drone comb and I'll tak' the worker comb,

And I'll have my frames filled before him."

—PETER BROCK, *Orchard Terrace, Enniskillen, 9/11/08.*

The Bee Pest (Ireland) Act, 1908.

That amusing person, "Cumbrian," returns to his attack, in the *British Bee Journal*, and complains that, though he has dragged the tail of his coat, there are no more shillelaghs in Donnybrook. It would be a long shillelagh that would reach from Donnybrook to Cumberland, yet such a one might, possibly, be found, had not "Cumbrian" been so careful to conceal his identity.

A number of prominent English beekeepers were discussing this subject in London recently, when one of them said:—"I wish to goodness that we had a strong man like Russell at the head of our Board of Agriculture. Then we would get a Foul Brood Bill for this country."

IRELAND SAVED FROM INVASION IF EVERY MAN AND WOMAN KEEPS BEES.

At the meeting of the Council of Agriculture in Dublin, a resolution was proposed by Rev. J. G. Digges, M.A., expressing appreciation of the Vice-President's action in the matter of foul brood disease and for the manner in which he conducted the Bee Pest Prevention (Ireland) Bill, 1908.

In the course of a speech the mover of the resolution, which was passed unanimously, elicited laughter by saying that if every man and woman in Ireland were a beekeeper the invasion of Ireland, even by the German Emperor, would be impossible.—*Evening Telegraph.*

The Month's Work.

EXPIRED SUBSCRIPTIONS.—The eighth season's work of the IRISH BEE JOURNAL closes with this issue, and a large number of subscriptions expire at the same time. Readers who receive this issue in a green wrapper should remit at once to the office for the next year's supply. No bee-man can afford to do without the JOURNAL. All who wish to succeed should take in at least one paper dealing with the subject. "Brimful of valuable hints," as the *Irish Farming World* says, its price brings it within reach of all.

WINTERING.—There is no out-door work to be done this month in well-managed apiaries, by any who have carried out the instructions already given in these columns. The bees have entered upon their winter's rest, and any manipulation now can but do harm; they should, therefore, be left in peace and quietness for some months to come.

MARKETING.—Honey which has been held over for higher prices should be well protected from cold, damp and dust. Sections kept in a cold cupboard, weep and are reduced in value. All the stock should now be pre-

pared for market; every section scraped, cleaned with sand paper, wrapped in waxed paper, then placed, a dozen in a box, and the boxes packed for transit in a strong case, with two or three inches of straw (not hay) beneath, on top, and round the sides.

ENTRANCES.—All danger of robbing being over, entrances should be opened to full width, and contracted only to protect against cold, cutting winds. Care must be taken lest the entrances should become choked by dead bees. A piece of strong wire, bent a couple of inches from one end, should be used occasionally to pull out the dead without disturbing the living.

ROOFS.—Any that have not proved sound should be made so at once. Elvery's cover (*see advt.*) is a cheap and serviceable protection, ready in any emergency, and made to last many years. Quilts that show damp should be replaced by dry ones. It is a wise plan to raise the roofs, for an hour or two, when the sun shines. Snow must not be allowed to melt on the roofs; it should be scraped or brushed off before it melts.

STORMS.—Beekeepers who have their hives in windy places should take precautions against the danger of having them unroofed, and even upset, during storms. Valuable stocks are frequently lost through carelessness in this respect. A simple method of securing hives was illustrated in our last issue, page 71. A strong stake is driven into the ground, a light rope is brought from the stake over the roof, and two bricks or stones are suspended as shown. The expense is trifling compared with the comfort of being able to sleep contentedly at night, knowing that one's bees are safe from the storm raging outside. Hives with flat roofs require only a large stone laid on top.

FEEDING.—Where our instructions in previous issues have been overlooked or neglected, with the result that stocks are still insufficiently supplied with food for the winter, a method that can now be adopted with safety is to prepare cakes of candy as advised last month, and to slip them under the quilts of the hives as quietly as possible, so as not to disturb the bees, renewing the supply as required.

FEEDING IN SKEPS.—Bees in a skep can be fed by opening the top of the skep and pushing into it a piece of candy, covering with warm stuff and a flower pot or bowl, the whole being made secure by a skep or crock on top.

CLEANING-UP.—All appliances, vacant hives, etc., should be thoroughly cleaned, and put away, with the stock of frames and foundation, in a dry place. The apiary should be overhauled and made tidy, and the grass cut. Hives may be painted as they stand, when the bees have ceased to fly.

MICE.—Some hivemakers have been sending out hives with entrances so deep as to invite the mice to warm quarters, and a winter's feasting. Such hives should have a strip of zinc tacked on, reducing the depth of the entrances to $\frac{1}{2}$ -in.

LOOKING FORWARD.—It may be safely said that no man ever became a successful beekeeper who did not acquire the habit of looking forward and anticipating the requirements of his bees. This is the time to prepare for next season. Extra hives, supers, crates, etc., will be required. The handy man can pass many a pleasant hour, in the cold days, nailing his hive parts together, planning for the future, and reading up the subject so full of living interest for us all.

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J. G. DICKES, M.A., Editor.

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